Modeling a museum-quality "Long Caboose"

Model Railroad News

The All-Scale News Monthly

MTH SD70ACe brings modern motive power to new levels of realism

Volume 15, Issue 11 • November 2009

$4.95 US/CANADA

11

0 94922 58293 5

2009 Industrial Rail™ Train Sets

Union Pacific

ALL SETS $299.95

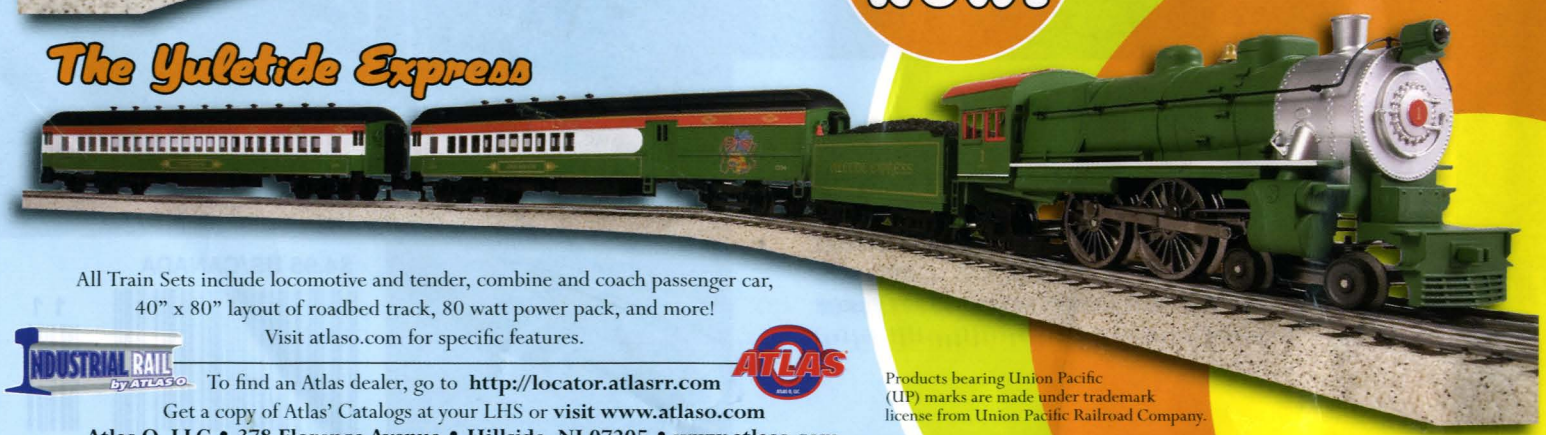
Pennsylvania Reading

TWO YEAR WARRANTY

The Angel Train™

IN STORES NOW!

The Yuletide Express



All Train Sets include locomotive and tender, combine and coach passenger car, 40" x 80" layout of roadbed track, 80 watt power pack, and more!
Visit atlaso.com for specific features.

INDUSTRIAL RAIL by ATLAS O

To find an Atlas dealer, go to **http://locator.atlasrr.com**
Get a copy of Atlas' Catalogs at your LHS or **visit www.atlaso.com**

Atlas O, LLC • 378 Florence Avenue • Hillside, NJ 07205 • www.atlaso.com

ATLAS

Products bearing Union Pacific (UP) marks are made under trademark license from Union Pacific Railroad Company.

ATLAS TRAINMAN
www.atlastrainman.com

2009 HO & N TRAINMAN® TRAIN SETS

Available in BNSF, Canadian National, and Norfolk Southern

www.atlastrainman.com/HOLoco/tmhotrainset2.htm

GP38-2 Locomotive, Box car, Gondola, Covered hopper, Caboose, 4' x 3' Oval True-Track® Layout, Power Pack, Instruction Sheet, Warranty Card, Blueprints for Ten True-Track® Layouts layout

A $249 Value for only $175.00!

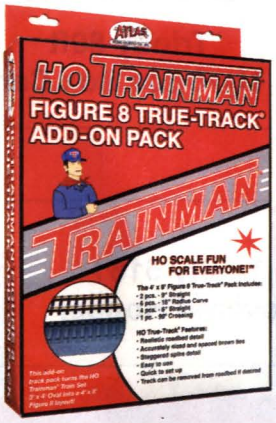
Available in Burlington Northern, Chicago & North Western, and Norfolk Southern

www.atlastrainman.com/Trainsets/ntrainset1.htm

GP15-1 Locomotive, Freight car asst: Box car, Thrall 4750 covered hopper, Coal hopper, Flat car w/tarped load, Caboose, 24" x 30" Oval True-Track® layout, Terminal track w/relay shed, Power pack, Instruction sheet, Warranty card

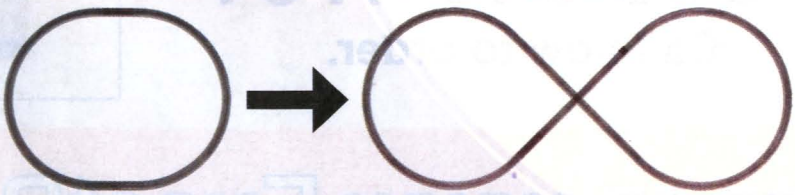
A $234 Value for only $149.95!

*CSX Licensed Product Products bearing Chicago & North Western (C&NW) marks are made under trademark license from Union Pacific Railroad Company.



ALSO AVAILABLE FROM ATLAS!

FIGURE 8 TRUE-TRACK® ADD-ON PACKS



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR A COMPLETE SHIPPING SCHEDULE!

ATLAS MODEL RAILROAD CO., INC. 60th ANNIVERSARY 1949-2009

To find an Atlas dealer, go to **http://locator.atlasrr.com** Get a copy of Atlas' Catalogs at your LHS or **visit www.atlasrr.com**

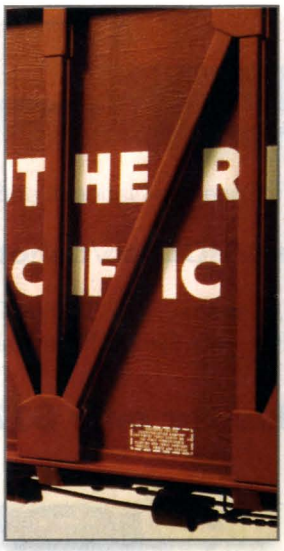
World's Greatest Hobby

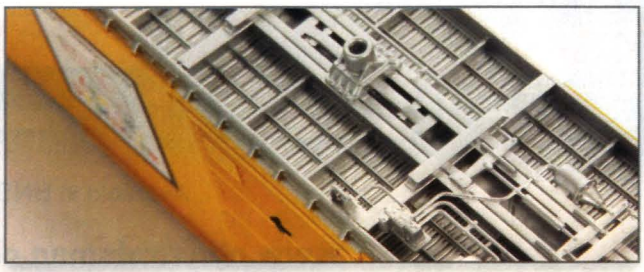
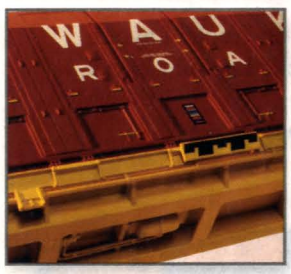
Atlas Model Railroad Co., Inc • 378 Florence Avenue • Hillside, NJ 07205 • www.atlasrr.com

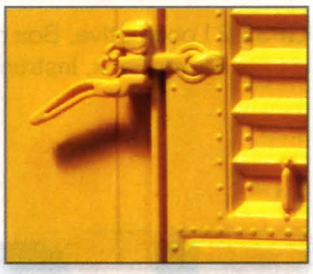
EXACTRAIL™

The Next Generation of Model Railroading

The Passion of Precision





HO SCALE

Greenville 60' Box Car

PS-2CD 4427 Covered Hopper

AutoFlood II Coal Hopper

Gunderson Wood Chip Gondola

HO SCALE & N SCALE

Vert-A-Pac Auto Carrier

Gunderson 2420 Gondola

PC&F 6033 Hy-Cube Box Car

Trinity 50ft Hy-Cube Box Car

N SCALE

Trinity 5161 Covered Hopper

1-866-945-1701

Call now to order.

EXACTRAIL AUTHORIZED DEALER

Dealer Inquiries Welcome

www.ExactRail.com

Visit ExactRail.com to see videos, purchase products or locate a dealer.

FREE Shipping **

ExactRail and the ExactRail Authorized Dealer Program are trademarks of ExactRail LLC. All rights reserved.

**Free shipping is a limited time offer on orders over $50 in the continental USA

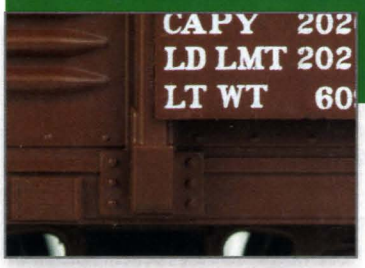
Introducing the...
Gunderson 2420 Gondola

Express Series

The first in the ExactRail Express Series

HO model displayed

Amazing Detail... Incredible Value!



Razor Sharp Printing

CNC Milled Wheels

Precision Tooling

Hand-Applied Details

1. ExactRail's equalized 100 ton ASF Ride Control trucks
2. CNC-machined wheels, fully detailed brake rigging
3. Separately applied placards with full precision bolt detail

ExactRail Express series is the best in performance and value.

Road Names

- SP
- ATSF
- CR
- ICG
- GN
- SCL

Only $19.95

HO SCALE N SCALE *

*Some features listed are for HO scale model only. See web site for N-scale details

EVOLUTION Series

PC&F 6033 Hy-Cube Box Car

New Southern Pacific Paint Scheme & Road Numbers

Only $24.95 HO SCALE

FREE Shipping **

www.ExactRail.com

Visit ExactRail.com to see videos, purchase products or locate a dealer.

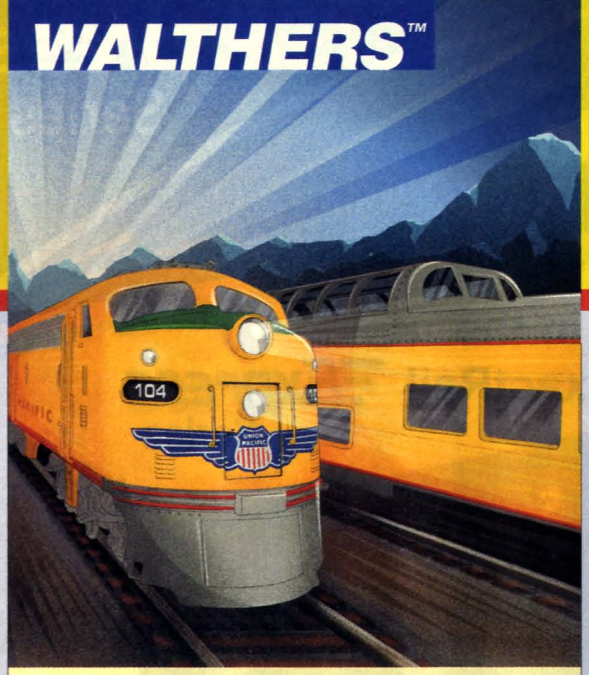
EXACTRAIL AUTHORIZED DEALER

Dealer Inquiries Welcome

ExactRail and the ExactRail Authorized Dealer Program are trademarks of ExactRail LLC. All rights reserved.
**Free shipping is a limited time offer on orders over $50 in the continental USA

WALTHERS™

Distinctive in Design



Reserve Your First Edition Union Pacific† *City* Streamliner Cars Today!

Available Only with First Edition Models

- Certificate of Authenticity
- Special Equipment History
- Limited Production First Edition Packaging

Reserve One of These Complete Trains Below to Receive:

- UP *City* Collectable Route Map
- UP *City* Timetable Replica
- Limited Time Offer – Order by 11/20/09 to Qualify!

City of Los Angeles; Preorder 1 Each:
#932-9570, 9560, 9590, 9600, 9610, 9500, 9520, 9490, 9510

City of San Francisco; Preorder 1 Each:
#932-9570, 9560, 9530, 9550, 9610, 9620, 9490, 9540

The Challenger; Preorder 1 Each:
#932-9570, 9560, 9530, 9550, 9580, 9540

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD™

- Complete Consists for:
  - City of Los Angeles 1955-60
  - City of San Francisco 1955-60
  - Challenger 1955-58
- Great Starting Point for modeling:
  - City of Portland 1955-59
  - City of Denver 1955-59
  - City of St. Louis 1955, 1958-60s
  - Combined City of Los Angeles/ San Francisco 1960s
  - Combined City of Portland/ Denver 1959-1960s

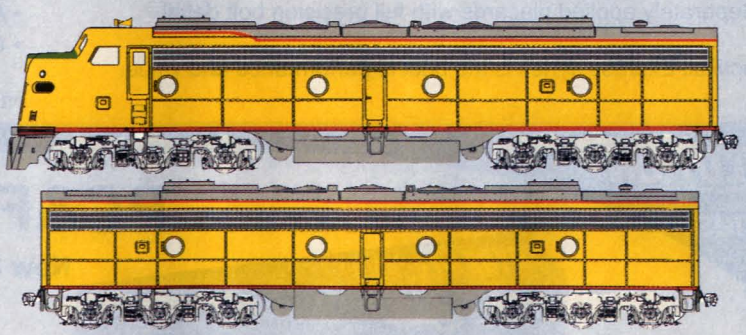
- 14 New HO Models!
- Based on Equipment used 1942-1971
- Authentic Paint, Lettering & Striping
- Car Name & Number Decals as Appropriate
- Superb Detail Inside & Out
- Proto MAX™ Metal Knuckle Couplers
- Correct Trucks with RP-25 Metal Wheels
- Modeler-Applied Wire Grab Irons
- Matching PROTO 2000 E8 Diesels – Updated Model!
- Great with MILW Yellow & Gray Cars Too!
- First New Car Arrives December 2009*

PROTO 2000® Power to Pull Your *City* Trains

To pull the growing *City* fleet, UP received its first EMD E8s in 1950. Typically run in A-B-B lash-ups, these engines (along with nearly identical E9s), were the signature power on UP's flagship trains through 1971.

Based on units assigned to various *City* trains, Walthers E8s feature authentic UP-specific detail, including the road's distinctive rooftop snowshields. The models come with multiple unit numbers, and are factory-finished in authentic paint, lettering and striping to match the cars. Choose Sound and DCC equipped, or Standard DC powered versions. Other features include:

- Revised Body
- See-Through Air Intake Grilles
- Helical Gears for Ultra-Quiet & Smooth Running
- Easy Multiple-Unit Operation
- Superb Paint & Lettering
- Painted Metal Grab Irons, Handrails & Lift Rings
- Five-Pole, Skew-Wound, High-Torque, High-Efficiency Can Motor
- Proto MAX Metal Knuckle Couplers
- December 2010 Delivery



A-B Sets
920-41350 #933 & 939B
w/Sound & DCC **$499.98**
920-41353 #937 & 946B
w/Sound & DCC **$499.98**
920-48350 #931 & 933B
Standard DC **$349.98**
920-48353 #938 & 938B
Standard DC **$349.98**

A Units Only
920-41351 #930
w/Sound & DCC **$259.98**
920-41354 #940
w/Sound & DCC **$259.98**
920-48351 #939
Standard DC **$179.98**
920-48354 #934
Standard DC **$179.98**

B Units Only
920-41352 #937B
w/Sound & DCC **$259.98**
920-41355 #948B
w/Sound & DCC **$259.98**
920-48352 #945B
Standard DC **$179.98**
920-48355 #936B
Standard DC **$179.98**

Union Pacific *City* Cars

Surrounded by western lore and breathtaking scenery, travel aboard Union Pacific's *City* trains rose to a new level with the arrival of "Astra Dome" cars in the mid-1950s. Riders aboard the great "Domeliners" enjoyed daily service and a view that was second to none between Chicago and points west. And now, modeling these great streamliners is easy, with this exciting series of Walthers models:

Find a hobby shop near you — Call 1-800-487-2467, or visit walthers.com for photos and more information on the entire *City* Streamliner series!

'Wm. K. Walthers, Inc., is a licensed supplier of products bearing Union Pacific trademarks. *Delivery dates and prices shown were accurate at press time; for updates, visit your participating dealer, see the latest Walthers Flyer™ or visit walthers.com. Photos show preproduction models assembled and painted; sketches shown for illustration purposes only, actual colors and details may vary. ©2009 Wm. K. Walthers, Inc.

***Imperial...* Series 4-4-2 Sleeper**
P-S Plan #4069H
$64.98 Each | December 2009
932-9490 Union Pacific
932-9491 Undecorated

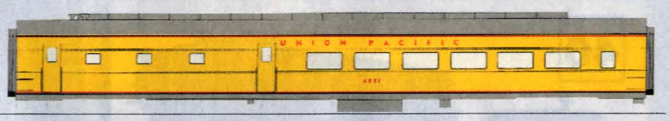
***Placid...* Series 11 Double-Bedroom Sleeper**
P-S Plan #4198
$64.98 Each | January 2010
932-9500 Union Pacific
932-9501 Undecorated

***Ocean...* Series 5-5-2 Sleeper**
P-S Plan #4200
$64.98 Each | February 2010
932-9510 Union Pacific
932-9511 Undecorated

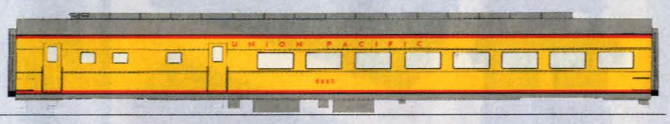
***City* Series 5 Double Bedroom Buffet Lounge**
P-S Plan #4199
$64.98 Each | March 2010
932-9520 Union Pacific
932-9521 Undecorated

44-Seat Coach - #5450-5487
ACF Lot #3812 & 4095
$64.98 Each | April 2010
932-9530 Union Pacific
932-9531 Undecorated

48-Seat Diner - #4800-4817
ACF Lot #3032
$64.98 Each | May 2010
932-9540 Union Pacific
932-9541 Undecorated

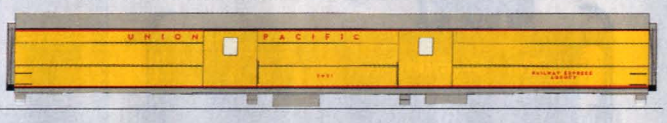


Cafe-Lounge - #5000-5006
ACF Lot #3031
$64.98 Each | June 2010
932-9550 Union Pacific
932-9551 Undecorated



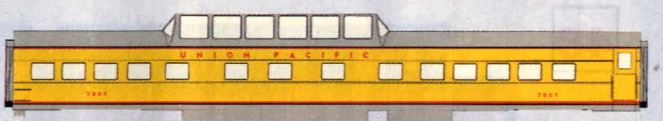
Baggage-Dormitory - #6000-6008
ACF Lot #3029
$64.98 Each | July 2010
932-9560 Union Pacific
932-9561 Undecorated

Baggage - #5631-5663
ACF Lot #3810 & #4094
$64.98 Each | August 2010
932-9570 Union Pacific
932-9571 Undecorated

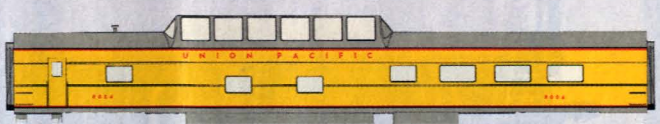


***Pacific...* Series 10-6 Sleeper**
Budd Job #9660-039
$64.98 | August 2010
932-9610 Union Pacific

Dome-Coach - #7000-7009
ACF Lot #4097
$74.98 Each | September 2010
932-9580 Union Pacific
932-9581 Undecorated

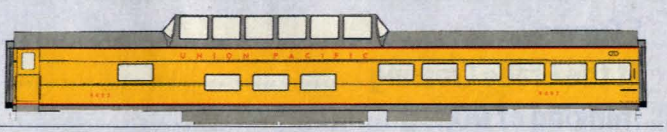


Dome-Diner - #8000-8009
ACF Lot #4098
$74.98 Each | October 2010
932-9590 Union Pacific
932-9591 Undecorated



***American...* Series 6-6-4 Sleeper**
P-S Plan #4099
$64.98 | October 2010
932-9620 Union Pacific (Unskirted)

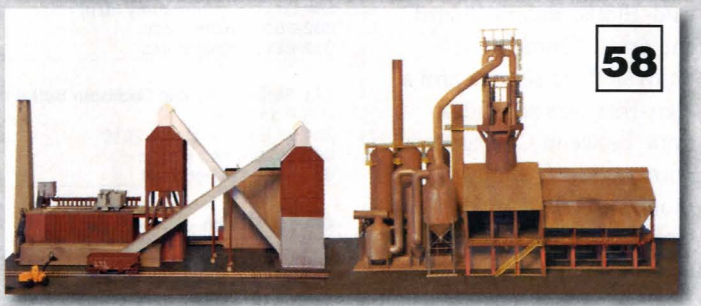
Observation-Dome-Lounge - #9000-9014
ACF Lot #4096
$74.98 Each | November 2010
932-9600 Union Pacific
932-9601 Undecorated

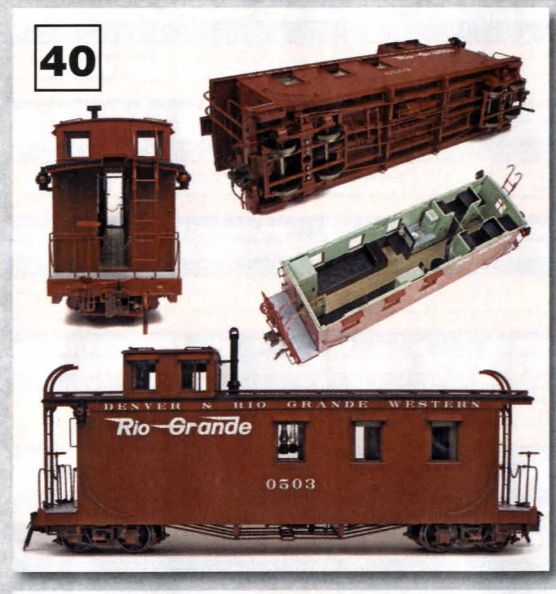


The Train List

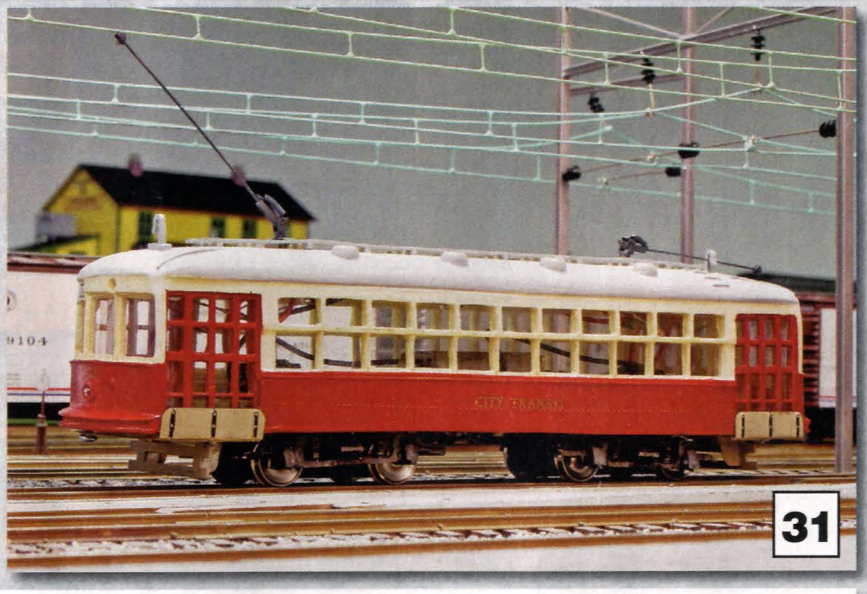
18

54


58



40

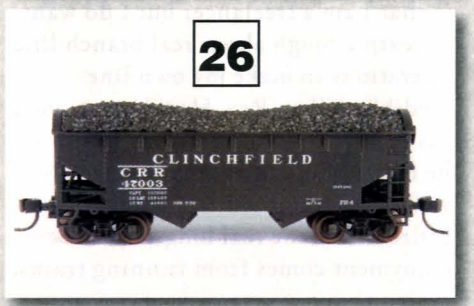


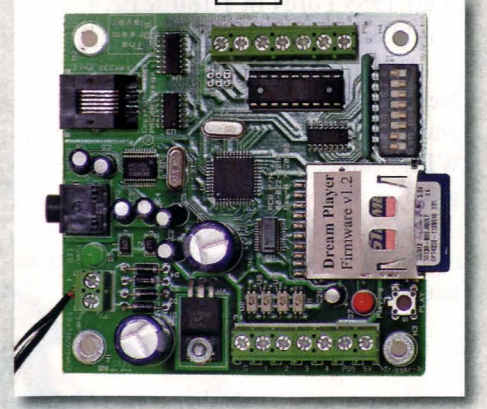
31

48

Columns & Departments

S Curves 80
At the Grade Crossing 82
Thinking of DCC 84
N Depth 86
TAMR (Teen Association of Model Railroads) 88
Dealer Directory 90-92
Classified Ads 93
Events & Activities 94-95
MRN: A Year in Review 96
Advertising Index 97





N-Scale Reviews

Atlas Master Offset 2-bay hoppers help recreate major mining operations— 26

Mokei-Tomix Vehicles create congestion on N-scale roadways — 54

Model Rectifier Sound Decoder adds new dimention to Intermountain FP7/9 in DC & DCC — 72

HO-Scale Reviews

Cover Story: MTH SD70ACe brings modern motive power to new levels of realism — 48

Walthers *Cornerstone* Steel Industry no minor undertaking— 58

S-Scale Review

PHM's Birney Streetcar kit adds interurban transportation for S-scale — 31

O-Scale Review

MTH's Railking 3-Rail RS-11 & MP15AC add value for the budget minded — 18

Large-Scale Review

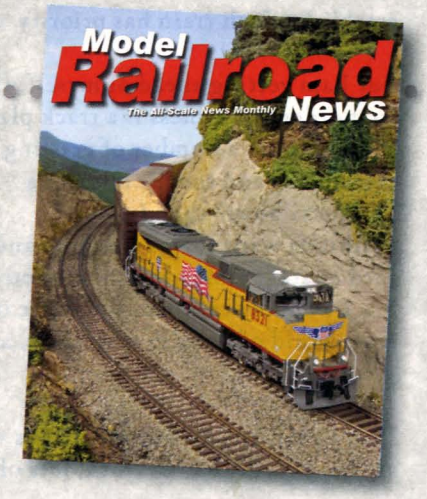
Bachmann Fn3 "Long Caboose" is a BIG release — 40

All-Scale Review

Fantasonics' Scale Magic Background Soundtracks bring static scenes to life — 76

Book Review

Steamscenes Rocky Mountain Sunrise offer glimpse into trains of Canadian West — 66



About The Cover: *Toiling to the high point at Summit on the P&E Railroad, No. 8321 is working by itself. This SD70ACe is on loan from UP with EMD's help, testing the feasibility of using new, modern power on a regional road. The Pacific & Eastern is the work of the Rogue River Valley Model Railroad Club in Medford, Oregon and a good place to show this locomotive at work. — Photo by John Sipple*

Editorial Planning the Route

A letter from Rev. Bruce Heald caught my attention this month. It was a comment on Dick Karnes' column and Dick penned an excellent response (you can read the letter and reply in this month's "Fresh from the RPO Car"), but I was interested in Rev. Heald's operating group.

I have been part of an operating crew a few times. It's fun, though I need more time to get my work done than I should. Don Bozman, one of my model railroading mentors, has given me a shot at handling the yard on his Great Great Northern, which is still one of my favorite layouts of all time. But I don't know that I am quite ready for that level of operation on a layout of my own.

I do know that being able to have a friend or two over to run trains is going to be a key part of my enjoyment of a layout. Even with DCC, I can operate a maximum of one train at a time. Yes, I can have a second train circling on a loop and play "dodge the express," but that would grow old rather quickly. Much better is two trains operating independently over the same trackage, each with its own work to do. One would certainly be a local peddler freight, but the other could be a passenger train or a larger train dropping cars on an exchange track.

Having some space between towns and industries will also add interest with sidings and spurs and a single mainline track. Rules will have to be devised to establish which train has priority, etc.

But I am getting ahead of myself; the first order of business is a track plan. I've looked at a number of existing track plans and they're more of a "spaghetti-bowl" than I want. I definitely want some switching and a yard to stage trains would be handy, but I want my railroad to operate in a scale world of terrain, structures, and scenery.

There are many model railroaders who are happy with lots of track, lots of trains, and lots of wood. I am not a member of the Plywood Plains crowd. That may be a shortcoming on my part: such a setup is likely the essence of model railroading and it certainly gets you running trains more quickly. But if I am running the 4:15 from Splinter to Knothole, I want at least a depot at each stop. Some trees along the way would be nice, too.

I was first attracted to grown-up model railroading more than forty-five years ago when I discovered model railroading magazines in my high school library. This was back when John Allen, Bill McClanahan, and Lynn Westcott were still alive and active in the hobby. I already liked trains and had played with them since I received a wooden Skaneateles set as a small child, but I was entranced by the miniature worlds these men and others had created. From time to time, when I was in college and afterwards, I would pick up a copy of *Model Railroader* or *Railroad Model Craftsman* and see what others were doing. I was in college when I bought my first copy of McClanahan's *Scenery for Model Railroads*. I read them all from cover to cover, but I really bought them for the pictures.

I really wish I had met a model railroader sometime along the way. As it was, it wasn't until I was forty that my wife decided she had had enough of armchair model railroading and took me to a hobby shop for Christmas. That was twenty years ago this year.

Armed with a copy of Bob Hayden's *Small Railroads You Can Build* and enough knowledge to be dangerous, I proceeded to build my version of the Yule Central. Perhaps if I had followed the directions more closely, things would have worked out better. At least the trains ran well.

Fortunately, by then I had met the members of Northwest Crossing Model Railroad Club, a modular club with layouts in both HO and N. I was fortunate to be able to adopt a corner module in need of a scenery refresh and really got to get my hands (and my wife's carpet) dirty.

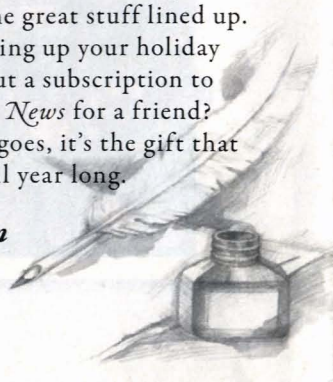
Over time, I did learn a number of the skills involved in model railroading, including why things work better with No. 6 turnouts than No. 4s, and why it's best to have more than one set of feeder wires. I also learned about making realistic looking scenery and scratchbuilding structures, and realized that you actually can turn much of what you envision into miniature reality.

One thing I discovered a long time ago is that I am a freelancer but I do want to learn enough about real branch line operations to make my own line credible. When Rev. Heald mentioned his crew and their operating sessions, he drove home the point that it's all well and good to build a model railroad but the real long-term enjoyment comes from running trains.

Though I am definitely going to build in N scale, I do have one regret: I won't be able to use my collection of HO vehicles. I've been *MRN's* vehicle guy since my first byline appeared in June 2003 and I have amassed quite a number of them. I haven't counted them in a long time, but I am sure there are a couple thousand. Fortunately, my collecting hasn't been confined to HO; I also have more than enough N-scale vehicles to create any traffic jams that I might require and, thanks to companies like Atlas, Athearn, Classic Metal Works, and Woodland Scenics, there are more in the pipeline. Now, if I could just persuade the folks at Athearn to make their 1955 Fords in 1:160 scale, I would be a happy camper.

Next month is our annual holiday issue and we've got some great stuff lined up. While you're making up your holiday gift list, how about a subscription to *Model Railroad News* for a friend? As the old saying goes, it's the gift that keeps on giving all year long.

— *Bill Cawthon*



THE PREMIUM TRAINS
GENESIS
FROM ATHEARN

Genesis Quality Meets Timeless Appeal

Genesis is the leading name in prototypical accuracy and we've held nothing back with the latest installation of the iconic FP7. Decked out in the orange and silver of Western Pacific, this model features Tsunami sound and no-sound versions, and directional constant lighting. Each model is individually crafted with the unique details of its prototype.

Whether you need a dual-transit engine or passenger or freight service, this Genesis® HO model will complete your fleet. Now you can have it on your layout—the perfect marriage of a railroading classic and quality scale replica.

For more information about these models, visit www.Athearn.com. And be sure to subscribe to Athearn News, our email newsletter, to stay up-to-date with the latest Athearn product information, including new releases.

FP7 WITHOUT SOUND			FP7 WITH SOUND		
G22215	FP7 Western Pacific #804-D 79753 22215	$169.98*	G22315	FP7 Western Pacific #804-D 79753 22315	$259.98*
G22216	FP7 Western Pacific #804-A 79753 22216	$169.98*	G22316	FP7 Western Pacific #804-A 79753 22316	$259.98*
G22217	FP7-F3B Western Pacific #805-A, 802-C 79753 22217	$309.98*	G22317	FP7-F3B Western Pacific #805-A, 802-C 79753 22317	$459.98*
G22218	FP7-F7B Western Pacific #805-D, 805-B 79753 22218	$309.98*	G22318	FP7-F7B Western Pacific #805-D, 805-B 79753 22318	$459.98*
G22219	F7B Western Pacific #804-B 79753 22219	$139.98*	G22319	F7B Western Pacific #804-B 79753 22318	$209.98*

HORIZON

© 2009 Horizon Hobby, Inc. Athearn® products are distributed exclusively by Horizon Hobby, Inc. For additional information or your nearest Athearn dealer, visit www.Athearn.com or call us toll-free at 800-338-4639. The Western Pacific mark owned by Union Pacific is made under trademark license from Union Pacific Railroad Company. Factory-painted pre-production model pictured.

16694

Fresh From The RPO Car

Brought to our attention...

In the September issue on page 21, the article notes that the CP sleepers are painted with a black body and gray stripes. Is there any photographic proof that such a paint scheme existed? All photos of CP passenger equipment I've seen, the car is painted Tuscan with black roof. I did a search for CP passenger cars and saw none that were painted black. I recognize that your information about paint schemes came from Intermountain but....

Pg. 22. Near bottom of the third column: "reporting marks since company initials that end in X typically are for rental railcars." Not so, private-owned cars have their reporting marks ending in X to distinguish from railroad-company-owned cars, the exception being CSX with reporting mark CSTX.

Do enjoy your reviews as well as write-ups of new paint schemes coming.

Bob Warren
Los Lunas, NM

Hi Bob,

I checked page 21 of the September issue and found the Intermountain Railway car in question is a replica of a Canadian National *sleeper, not a Canadian* Pacific *car. I looked up some reference photos of the prototype CN car, and the Intermountain car looked about right.*

A check of reporting marks shows that CSTX is the reporting mark for Canadian Starch Company (Cacso). CSX uses CSXE, CSXT, CSXU, and CSXZ reporting marks. But you are correct about the regular practice of creating reporting marks for privately owned cars. –Bill

Missing Masterpiece

Before I begin, I would to like to tell you how much your magazine is enjoyed. It is informative, well written and, yes, I like the new format. When it arrives I read it cover to cover, then I read it again.

I hope you can solve a mystery for me: Atlas announced in January '08 a 1950 Ford Custom Sedan with a ship date in the first quarter of '08; it was in Walthers '09 catalog. Fast forward to September '09... it does not appear in the new Walthers 2010 catalog and no updates on the Atlas website. Have you heard what happened?

Gary Lewis
Harrisburg, PA

Hi Gary,

Atlas is not at fault on this one. Atlas has been the distributor for Masterpiece Automotive Replicas, a Chinese company formed a few years ago. Unfortunately, the timing couldn't have been worse for a new company making HO-scale vehicle models. The toy industry in China was in a major upheaval, costs were going up, factories were closing by the thousand (50 percent of China's toy makers went out of business) and the skilled assemblers needed for this kind of work were being snapped up by other industries. Masterpiece itself was saved by a very large custom project, but it took all of Masterpiece's resources to fulfill the project's requirements.

It is my understanding that Masterpiece will be resuming production of HO models in the next few months and one of the first projects to go into production will be the 1950 Ford sedan. Based on that, I am assuming the models will be coming to the U.S. sometime in early 2010.

As I have updated information, I will be sharing it in my "At the Grade Crossing" column. –Bill

No Virginian Battleships

The September issue of *MRN* featured, on page 30, an announcement of Virginian "Battleship" gondolas from Funaro & Camerlengo. Coincidentally, one of the Norfolk & Western Historical Society's newsgroups had a thread about the name. No record was found of the Virginian, or its employees, ever using the "battleship" appellation for these cars. However, the N&W used the term for its 100 ton gondolas, and after the merger with the Virginian, the name was used for the G3/G4 series cars.

Gerhard Postpischil
Bradford, VT

Thanks for the additional information, Gerhard. –Bill

Readers Find How-tos Helpful

Two Issues:

1.) I have to disagree with G. Taft DeVere (*MRN*, September 2009) on his objection to "how-to" articles. As an armchair modeler for the last 20 years, I have 50 to 60 wood, plastic, and resin kits still in their original, unopened boxes. When I do start, I want to have all the dos & don'ts and pitfalls in kit building at my ready.

2.) I hope John Sipple keeps up the "Thinking of DCC" column. In the past, his name appeared so many places throughout the pages of *MRN*; I was worried he would get burned out. We're glad he is staying around.

Larry Hempel
Elsberry, MO

I'm glad John is staying around, too, but I can't blame him for wanting to spend more time playing with trains than writing about them.

We've also received several letters regarding How-to's appearing in MRN. *Read on. –Bill*

Give Me More than Reviews

I have been a reader of *MRN* for 18 months and really like it. I take issue with the comment from Mr. DeVere in the September issue. I thoroughly enjoyed "ProjectDCC" as well as other how-to articles.

As a newbie to this hobby, my goal is to set up a small computer-controlled layout (4 x 8 with a 4 x 4 extension). As a former computer engineer, full computer control of all crossings, signals, etc. is my goal. The series of articles gave me many ideas and help. Thank you for all the work in it. Also the how-to help is very much appreciated.

To me, a magazine that is solely about new product reviews would be boring.

Nick Marks
Dublin, CA

ALPS Printer Problem

I am sorry to read that Mr. DeVere is not happy with *MRN*; I was, too, for a while. But, after looking at the larger view, I realized that the diverse coverage given to all scales and gauges (even toys), gave me a greater perspective of what is out there. Not to mention the history lessons given in the reviews of items, be it a scale loco, RR car, auto, toy, or a DCC product, the gained knowledge will be of great value.

Now to my problem, as you guessed, I am an accused "scale modeler," for my disregard for a collectable railroad car, for the want of the body for a project. Recently, I purchased a new Dell computer with Windows XP professional to replace my aging one. I basically got an up-to-date copy of the one I have. Here we go! I have an "ALPS electric MD5000"; it is a dry ink printer that can print white, which makes it perfect for making decals to letter my model railroad cars. There is a software conflict and the new computer will not run the printer. This leaves me with three options: 1. continue to use the old computer to run the printer (which I am doing now); 2. acquire a new driver disk that is up to date (that is the glitch — ALPS electric no longer provides support and I cannot find the original disk); 3. Get a new printer!

Now the big question, does anyone out there have a disk that they would share or any suggestions for a reasonably priced replacement?

Please contact me at: kwc514@optonline.net. Best regards and thanks for the help.

Hey, Bill, maybe you could do a survey on printers that could make decals for the scale modelers out there?

Kenneth Cloughley
Commack, NY

Hi Kenneth,

In-depth pieces like Phil Scandura's ProjectDCC are important now and then but we have to be careful to avoid overdoing it. After all, our primary mission is to bring you the latest news on products of interest and provide our take on as many different products as we can.

In my mind, the "history lessons," are an important part of reviewing the product. Just as we would want to know if a locomotive or piece of rolling stock is an accurate replica and functions properly, it's important for us to know if it fits the era and region we're modeling.

For your ALPS driver, try www.alpsink.com/alps_md5000_printer.htm or www.DriverGuide.com (notice: you may need to purchase a membership). It's a download and it shows being for Windows NT 4.0.0 but there might be something you could do with that.

As interesting as a printer comparison might be, that's a topic better left for one of the computer magazines. They've been doing that stuff for years and would do a much better job of it than we could. Besides, since ALPS discontinued their budget line of resin dye-sublimation printers, I believe all that's left are some high-dollar printers using similar technology. –Bill

In Praise of Operation

Perhaps the failure to design a model railroad that will hold one's interest for many years is found in the question Dick Karnes presented in his September "S-Curves" Column: "What do you want your railroad to do?" If you just want to build models or play with toy trains you'll probably do all right. If one wants to simulate the prototype, which I would suggest was the original goal when grown men started playing with toy trains many years ago, he may be in for a disappointment.

The problem, I would suggest, Tony Koester's fine columns not withstanding, is that very, very few modelers know how to simulate real railroad operations well. The vast majority of modelers are just that, modelers. They build or buy locos and cars, track, and scenery. When the layout is finally done, they are done. It's not too long before the layout falls into disuse, or the layout is torn out and another one started.

Why? They don't really have more than a clue how the prototype really works or why. Few modelers (or railfans) know the hows and whys of, say, Class I's of the 1950s and 1960s, because they never worked and lived the real thing. They never worked third trick in a busy tower or made a second-trick yard check in a freight yard in snow and rain. They never sold commuter tickets in rush hour the first work day of the month, sold

Orders ONLY: 800-672-8762
Hometown-Oregon-Red Ball-Tichy-City Classics
We stock: Bethlehem Car-Cannonball Central Vly-E Gary Car
70th Anniversary Limited Edition HO Kit

Preproduction model
Open Platform Daycoach $22.95
Open Platform Jim Crow $24.95
Open Platform 40'Coach $14.95
Open Platform 45'Combine $15.95
Molded plastic body pts, roof ends.Cast Metal underbody parts. Undec L/T&C
Ships December. US Shipping $8; IN add 7% tax
www.mrrwarehouse.com
Box 411 • Roanoke, IN 4 6783

Ed's Boxcar (USA)
www.edsboxcar.com
e-mail: info@edsboxcar.com
Model Trains
G to Z • Lionel • Märklin
Walthers 5 Star Dealer
Shipping: Actual Cost + 99¢ Handling
Check our website for Specials!
35th Anniversary!
Serving all your hobby needs for over 35 years...
20% discount on most items
Some restrictions apply
DCC Lenz/NCE/TCS Systems & Installation
HO and Larger Scales
Lionel Service Available
Call Toll Free 888-855-9067
The discounts are first-rate!
The shipping is reasonable!
TRY US... The call is free!
Most of all, the service is friendly!
A family-owned business
MC • Visa • Disc • Amex

ALPINE VILLAGE
MINIATURE EUROPEAN SCENERY
HAND MADE IN GERMANY

15 Snowy Tree Set $19.95
#106-043A

Modeler's Toolkit
Ground Cover, Glue
Ballast Sampler Kit
$19.95
#106-5007
Imported Trees, Cottages & Snowy Scenery
RailRoad Express
1-800-836-0979
WWW.RAILPRESS.COM

Model Railroad News

www.modelrailroadnews.com
Phone 541-955-1096 • Fax 541-955-0346

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O.BOX 1080 • Merlin, OR 97532-1080

COURIER ADDRESS (UPS, FedEx, DHL, etc.)
400 Galice Rd • Merlin, OR 97532

PUBLISHER
Michael W. Lindsay
mlindsay@modelrailroadnews.com

EDITOR
Bill Cawthon
editor@modelrailroadnews.com

EDITOR EMERITUS
John Sipple
jsipple@modelrailroadnews.com

NEWS EDITOR
Jennifer Lindsay
news@modelrailroadnews.com

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
David Otte
dotte@modelrailroadnews.com

Steven Goehring
sgoehring@modelrailroadnews.com

ASSISTANT EDITORS
Wendy Cawthon & Katie Lindsay

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Al Skinner, Alan Houtz, Art Lake, Dave Carr, David Jasper, Denis Dunning, Dick Bronson, Dick Foster, Dick Karnes, Mike Acker, Pete Birdsong MMR, Rich Cobb, Stephen M. Priest MMR, V.S. Roseman, Wayne Calder

COLUMNISTS
At The Grade Crossing *– Bill Cawthon*
gradecrossing@modelrailroadnews.com

S-Curves *– Dick Karnes*
scurves@modelrailroadnews.com

TAMR *(Teen Association of Model Railroaders)*
Jeffrey Andreski & Sawyer Berry
tamr@modelrailroadnews.com

Thinking of DCC *– John Sipple*
dcc@modelrailroadnews.com

N-Depth *– Steven Goehring*
ndepth@modelrailroadnews.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER–ADVERTISER BILLING
Karen Lindsay
karen@modelrailroadnews.com

ART DIRECTION–PAGE LAYOUT
Paired Rail Railroad Publications, Ltd.
prrp@pairedrail.com

WEB DESIGNER–ASSISTANT PAGE LAYOUT ARTIST
Nancy Hutson
nancy@modelrailroadnews.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
letters@modelrailroadnews.com

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES
events@modelrailroadnews.com

ADVERTISING–DEALER SALES
Phone 541-955-1096 • Fax 541-955-0346
ads@modelrailroadnews.com
dealers@modelrailroadnews.com

SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES: 541-955-1096
subscriptions@modelrailroadnews.com

SUBSCRIBER ADDRESS CHANGES
P.O.Box 1080 • Merlin, OR 97532-1080
nancy@modelrailroadnews.com

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Model Railroad News • P.O.Box 1080 • Merlin, OR 97532-1080 — ***Model Railroad News*** (ISSN 15334244) is published monthly by **LampLight Publishing,** 400 Galice Rd, Merlin, OR 97532. Annual subscription prices are U.S. $39.95 and Canada $39.95 (US$). Periodicals postage paid at Merlin, OR 97532 and additional mailing offices. **Editorial Material Submissions:** Send materials for editorial consideration to the addresses at the top of this page. **Advertising Rates:** Advertising rates are as low as $28 per issue. Call, write, e-mail, or fax for information or to request a Media Kit and Rate Card. All material in this publication, except where otherwise noted, is copyright ©2007 by LampLight Publishing and may not be reproduced in any form without prior written permission from the publisher. Trademarks, servicemarks, etc., where used, are the property of their respective owners.

sleeping car space, operated a drawbridge in the fog, or worked a freight agency, cranked crossing gates in the night, rode a hack at 60 per on 40 mph track, rode the cushions on an old standard coach bringing up the rear of stainless steel equipment making better than 95 to 100 mph down NH's Sharon Hill to make up time on a holiday eve (and proud of the head end crew in white shirt and tie and pushing age 70!), or grew up in a brass hat's home reading *Railway Age* and talking nothing but the railroad. They never had to explain to a consignee where his car was and why, or to a Dispatcher why he just stuck No.9 one minute. Or have better than 100,000 miles riding the cushions as a dependent, then as an employee, or working in the Operating Department of five different railroads ending in 1979 as I did.

Just as an old engineer, asked how fast he runs, would most likely have answered, "By the feel of the rail," the answer to having a proper simulation is that you have to have a feel for it. You design and operate accordingly. Then you won't tire of it. The 18 foot by 44 foot layout in my basement may be an example. An NMRA Operations Special Interest Group layout, it's operated every other Thursday evening by up to five men, one of whom drives over a mountain range from another state to operate each session. No scenery, just track, trains, and serious prototypical operations. It will keep a lot of men busy for as long as I live. And visitors too. Oh, and by the way, it's all American Flyer converted to DC. (So next time you hear someone say "American Flyer," take your hat off please.)

Rev. Bruce K. Heald
Rutland, VT

Very well put, Bruce. Personally, I agree with you. I believe there are a lot of modelers out there whose interest would be held over time by operating a model railroad as if it's a real railroad. Doing so, of course, requires a layout design that supports simulation of real-life operation. My own guru for design for operation is John Armstrong.

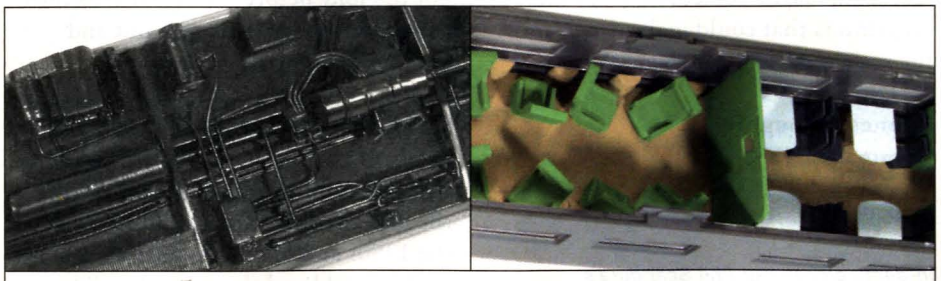
My hobby shop owner, Steve DePolo, is the classic layout builder that you describe. He's built layouts in several scales and gauges. Once he can at last visualize the completed scenes, he stops, tears the layout out, and begins another. Yet he is happy too.

There are other personality types who will never sit still for the intricacies of prototype operation. They never tire of watching their beloved 20th Century Limited *or* California Zephyr *negotiate the same simple track plan over and over, month after month, year after year.*

There's room for all of us. We just have to know who we are. –Dick Karnes

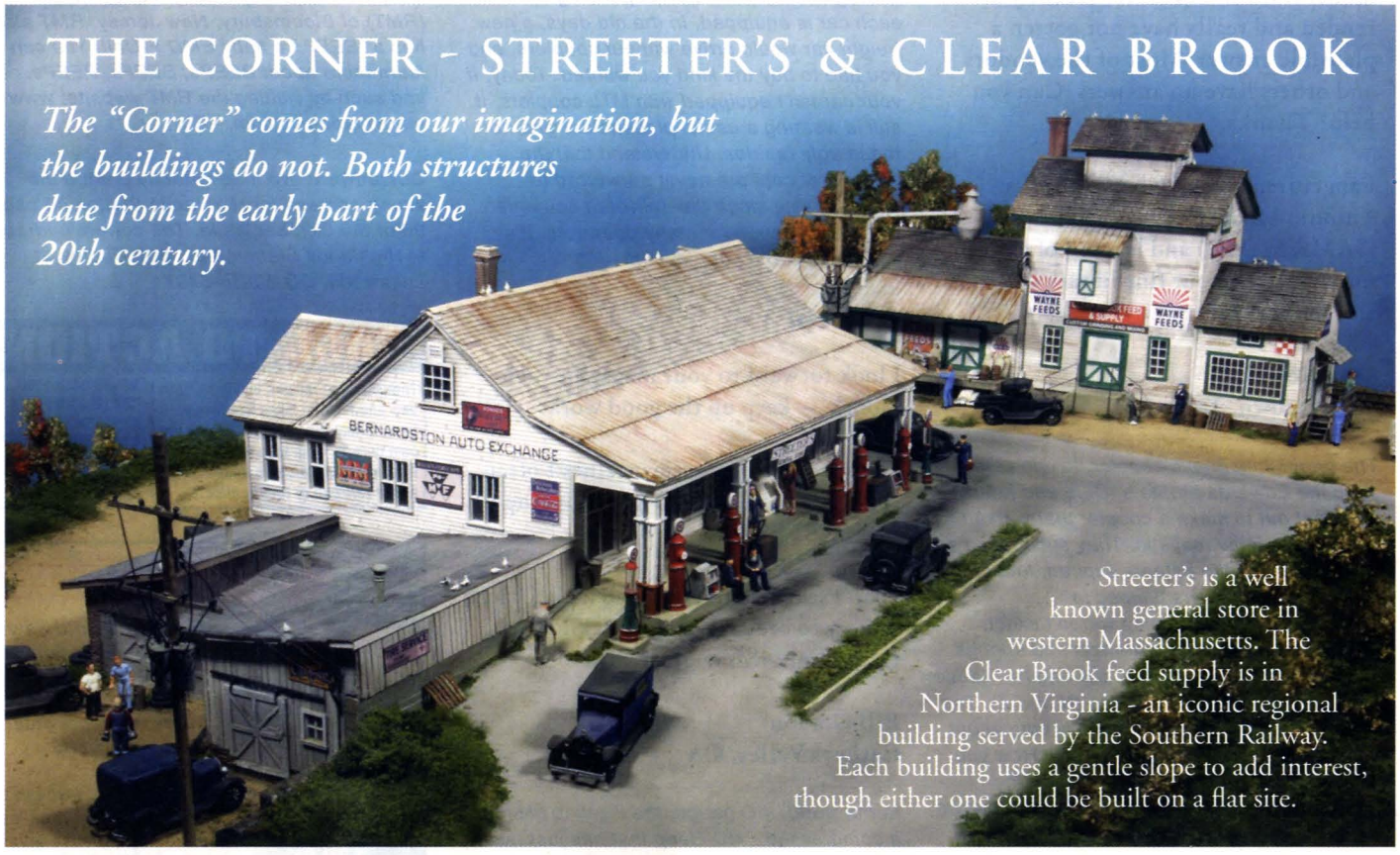
Accumate Coupler Query

I had been modeling in N scale for many years and just within the last few years have returned to the hobby. In years past, we all know that the Rapido coupler was the standard. Then along came Kadee (now Micro-Trains) with their reliable hands-free Magne-Matic, which perform reliably when working over their proprietary uncoupling magnet when connected to another Micro-Trains coupler. However, can you explain why the Accumate magnetic coupler on the Atlas family of locomotives and cars, do not perform the same? They are similar with a trip pin, however, when they move over the uncoupling magnet, they barely move, thus resulting in using the pick more often to disconnect the cars especially when they are connected to another Atlas car or locomotive. I've asked the question at

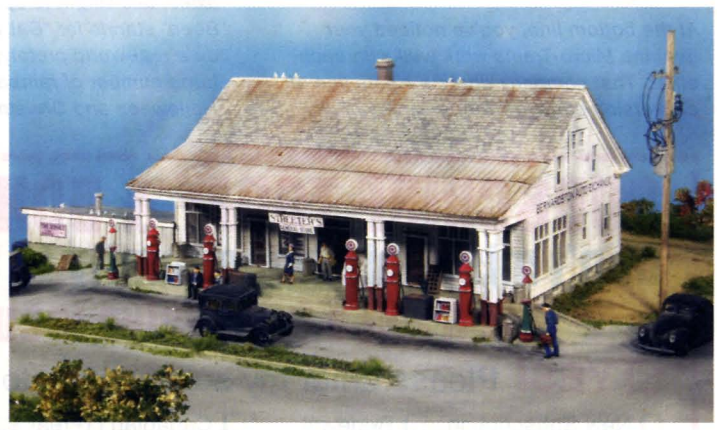

New HO Scale PS Buffet-Parlor Car. All-new underbody and interior with unprecedented detail.
11 different paint schemes plus undecorated. Reserve them from your dealer today!
RAPIDO
RAPIDO TRAINS INC.
Quality. Style. Spirit. www.rapidotrains.com
Pre-production sample shown. Underbody equipment supports and rivets not yet added.

THE CORNER - STREETER'S & CLEAR BROOK

The "Corner" comes from our imagination, but the buildings do not. Both structures date from the early part of the 20th century.



Streeter's is a well known general store in western Massachusetts. The Clear Brook feed supply is in Northern Virginia - an iconic regional building served by the Southern Railway. Each building uses a gentle slope to add interest, though either one could be built on a flat site.



The wood walls of the buildings are laser cut from a special Northeastern Scale Lumber clapboard siding. The foundations, masonry lower levels, and the fractured stone retaining walls are urethane castings based on hand carved masters. Two silos, made of urethane and etched metal add to the storage capacity of the feed mill. A full set of vintage gas pumps are part of a 185 piece set of metal castings made from our own masters. There is more in this kit than can be described on this page, so please visit our website, **southrivermodelworks.com**, for more pictures and prototype photographs.

Our own laser cut slate roof shingles are back, along with a new pattern for a lasered wood shingle roof. Northeastern Scale Lumber corrugated and raised seam roofing are also supplied. Top of the line parts and materials from vendors such as Mt. Albert Scale Lumber, Grandt Line Products and Berkshire Junction are some of the additional features that add interest, quality and value to this kit.

The 103 page instruction book with almost 200 photos and illustrations is a course in craftsman structure building. By doing all design, tooling, building and directions in-house, we know the tricks and nuances that are important to making your efforts pay off. Photos, illustrations and plans illuminate all major & and minor steps. Everything is covered: history, planning, building, painting, weathering techniques and scenery development.

HO Kit No. 320

Limited to an Edition of 450 Signed Kits

$320.00 + $15.00 S&H

SOUTH RIVER MODELWORKS

476 BARDWELLS FERRY ROAD • CONWAY, MA • 01341

Ph:413-369-4482 Fax:413-369-4966 e-mail: southriv@comcast.net

web site: http://www.southrivermodelworks.com

Order Direct - by phone, mail, Fax or use our secure on-line ordering system.

Check, Money Order, MC/VISA or DISC. Canada add $15.00. MA residents add 6.25 % sales tx. Overseas orders contact us for shipping information. For more information on this kit, see our website. Sorry, but we do not have a catalog. All previous kits runs have been sold out.

model train shows I have recently attended and really have not gotten a plausible answer. Most of the vendors and others have no answers. Can you help? Thanks.

I am currently a member of the San Antonio Model Railroad Club (SAMRA) (HO) and learned of your magazine from our fine library of books and magazines.

Don Hoisek
Georgetown, Texas

The original magnetic coupler design came from the Edwards brothers, Dale and Keith. They set out to make a coupler that worked and looked fairly realistic. They succeeded so well that when the patents expired, lots of other coupler makers jumped in. Unfortunately, their copies weren't exact, since they used other materials and springs with different tensions than the original Kadee (HO and up) and Micro-Trains (N and Z). The result is couplers that will usually couple but may not always work magnetically. How you mount your coupler ramps and what the coupler trip pins are made of seems to be two of the more common issues.

At the bottom line, you've noticed your genuine Micro-Trains work well with each other. That company offers a whole line of conversion couplers with a variety of strategies for conversion depending on how each car is equipped. In the old days, a new freight car would arrive without couplers, and you had to buy the kind you wanted. Today, if your car isn't equipped with MTL couplers, it still is wearing a useful placeholder and not those ugly rapidos. Understand that the majority of cars are never converted to anything else since the delivered couplers work well enough for many operators. It's your choice and your layout! –John

O Beep!

I look forward to your magazine each month — keep up the good work.

Question: In various magazines I often see photos of a small O-gauge engine called a "BEEP" —

I can't seem to find out who makes them or how to order one. Do you know anything about this engine?

Bill Gorton
Catheys Valley, CA

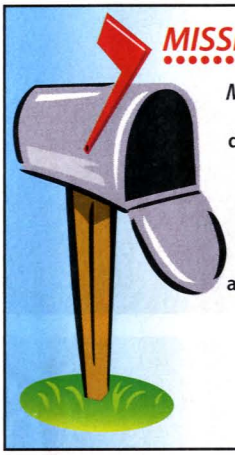
In the world of O gauge, the Beep is basically a compressed EMD Geep that has just two axles, allowing it to operate on tight curves. "Beep" stands for "Baby Geep." It is not based on a real-world prototype so RMT offers it in a large number of railroad liveries as well as Halloween and Christmas versions. Beeps are made by Ready Made Trains (RMT) of Bloomsbury, New Jersey. RMT also has a "BEEF," a baby EMD F-Unit. You can learn more about BEEPs, BEEFs, PEEPs, and such by visiting the RMT website: www.readymadetoys.com. –Bill

Correction: *We inadvertantly printed the wrong address for Highlands Station on page 68 of the October issue. The correct address is Highlands Station, Inc., 600 Dudley St., Lakewood, CO 80215-5407*

CALL TO ACTION

Thousands of railcars including both new and historic fallen flags have been vandalized with graffiti over the past decade. Help stop this crime. ***Report any suspicious trespassing to the railroad or local police.***

NS (800)453-2530
CSX (800)232-0144
UP (888)877-7267
BNSF (800)832-5452
CN (800)465-9239
CP (800)716-9132
KCS (877)527-9464



MISSING AN ISSUE?

Model Railroad News is scheduled to be delivered the 1st week of the cover date. *"We do not pre-date our covers."*

If your issue doesn't appear in your mail by the 15th, please give us a call and we will be happy to replace your missing issue. (541) 955-1096

SUBSCRIBE TODAY & DON'T MISS ANOTHER ISSUE!

Don't miss this opportunity to SAVE 50% OFF the cover price!

You'll get a full twelve issues for only $29.95* (2 years: $49.95*)

❑ **YES!** Please enter my subscription to *Model Railroad News* ❑ 1 Year ❑ 2 Years

❑ New Subscription ❑ Renewal *❑ Canadian (1-Year $39.95, 2-Years $69.95) * ❑ Foreign (1-Year $49.95, 2-Years $89.95)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY ☞ **Send completed form to: MRN P.O.Box 1080 Merlin, OR 97532-1080, USA**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Country _____

Make Checks Payable To: Model Railroad News
Credit Card Orders may be faxed to: 541-955-0346

AMERICAN EXPRESS ❑ MasterCard ❑ DISCOVER ❑ VISA ❑

Name (as it appears on card): _____ Phone: (____) _____

Credit Card Number: _____ – _____ – _____ – _____ Exp Date: _____

Signature (required): _____

For those who know SMOOTH PERFORMANCE, Paragon2 locomotives by Broadway Limited Imports are the ONLY choice.

BROADWAY LIMITED PARAGON2 SERIES

RON GAREIS

Ron was an electrical engineer at General Electric (GE) for 40 years. He's been a model railroader for over 55 years. To say he knows the ins and outs of smooth train operation would be an understatement.

Hometown ..... Charlottesville, VA

Years as Modeler ..... 55 years

Qualification ..... Electrical Engineer

# of U.S. Patents issued to Ron 21

# of Re-Built Brass Locomotives .... Lost Count

Locomotive Preference .....Broadway Paragon2

RON'S PICK: PARAGON2 PRR Q2 4-4-6-4 with SMOKE

-99.9% BRASS Construction and Detail Level

-Precision-milled gears and engineering

-Powerful 5-Pole Skew-Wound Can Motor

-Slow-speed tested to speed step 1 of 128

-Enhanced durability of siderods and riveting

-Glass-like operation on all track types

-Smoke & chuff mechanically synchronized to the wheels and valve gear.

-The smoothest running, quietest drive system in the model railroading hobby. Paragon2.

Get one from your hobby dealer today!

PRR Q2 4-4-6-4, HO
HO Scale | MSRP: $599.99
PREORDER THE Q2 TODAY

www.broadway-limited.com | tel: 386-673-8900

REVIEW O

MTH's Railking Scale Line-up: The 3-Rail RS-11 and MP15AC

Value-added locomotives for the budget-minded O gauger's roster

Review and Photos by David Otte

Railking Scale RS-11 (#30-2819-1)
Railking Scale MP15AC (#30-2813-1)
MSRP: $299.95 Powered

MSRP: $149.95 Non-powered (RS-11 only)

M.T.H. Electric Trains
7020 Columbia Gateway Drive
Columbia, MD 21046
410-381-2580 • Fax: 410-381-6122
www.mthtrains.com

WHILE MTH Electric Trains has been making great headway into the HO-scale market over the past year, they haven't forgotten the O gauge 3-rail side of their business and the time seems right for an update on MTH's line of Railking Scale locomotives. Their two newest releases, the RS-11 and MP15AC, are excellent examples of this company's continued efforts in offering these 1/48-scale size models with more add-on details and improved prototypical appearance, as we first experienced with their SW-1 switcher (reviewed in the September 2008 issue of *Model Railroad News*). These new attributes combined with MTH's popular Proto-Sound 2.0 system offer real value, especially for budget-minded operators of small layouts.

The Prototypes

As the saying goes, "age before beauty," so we'll begin with the RS-11. While the American Locomotive Company had made the move from noted steam locomotive manufacturer to erector of diesel-electric motive power by the end of World War Two, it found competition in this marketplace to be tough. This was never more evident than when the company found itself, in the early 1950s, needing a new road-switcher able to match Electro-Motive Division's 1,750 horsepower GP9. Alco's answer would be the model DL-701, better known as the RS-11.

The DL-701 used the newly developed 12-cylinder 251B prime mover, which could develop 1,800 horsepower and promised to be more reliable than the company's problem-plagued 244 engine used in their older RS-3 units. Like EMD's Geeps, the 240,000-pound RS-11 had both high short and long hoods that allowed for an optional steam generator in the short hood and optional dynamic brakes in the long hood. Thus, it fit within the parameters of being usable for both switching and freight/passenger service. The first RS-11 left Alco's Schenectady plant in February of 1956. Although not as popular as Alco had hoped, orders were placed by numerous domestic and Mexican railroads including: Nickel Plate Road, Norfolk & Western, New Haven, Maine Central, Pennsylvania, Green Bay & Western, Duluth Winnipeg & Pacific, Southern Pacific, New York Central, Lehigh Valley, Northern Pacific, Toledo, Peoria & Western, Missouri Pacific, Seaboard Airline, Delaware & Hudson, Nationales de Mexico, and Ferrocarril Del Pacifico. By the time production ended in 1964, over 400 RS-11s were delivered: a trivial amount compared to the 3,000 or more GP9s EMD produced.

Jumping ahead to the early 1970s, we catch up with our second prototype's story. EMD was experiencing a real slump in sales as the poor economy was forcing railroads to stretch their dollars when it came to new locomotive purchases. They wanted versatility, a locomotive that could work the yards like a switcher, but could handle a consist, too, at mainline speeds. The designers at Electro-Motive turned to the company's popular SW1500 switcher for a solution.

They began by stretching the SW1500's frame by four feet, moving apart the truck centers not only to accommodate the longer nine-foot wheelbase of the road quality Blomberg trucks, but also a larger 1,400 gallon fuel tank for an extended operating duration. The 12-cylinder model 645E prime mover was kept, as well as the general carbody shape, but the additional length and 12,000 pounds of extra weight resulting from the redesign provided the unit not only with a better ride, but also with an improved continuous tractive effort. Redesignated with "MP," which stood for multi-purpose along with "15" for 1,500 horsepower, the Class 1 railroads, as well

At 14.5 inches long, the 4 pound, 10 ounce MTH Railking Scale RS-11 is the spitting image of the Pennsylvania's number 8630. The PRR would come to own a total of 38 RS-11 road switchers, which saw assignments primarily in the Philadelphia Region and the Northern Region with the balance of the units divided up between the New York, Lake, and the Northwest Regions. Except for a single unit, The PRR's RS-11s would continue in service through Penn Central and the Conrail takeover with the last of the 1,800 horsepower Alcos being retired in March of 1981. In particular, number 8630 was delivered to the railroad in February of 1957 and was later re-classed as ARS-18 and renumbered to 7630 in 1966, the roadnumber it would carry until being retired.

as many smaller regional and industrial carriers, began to take note of the MP15.

A year after its introduction, the new MP lineup was joined by the MP15AC model, which utilized an alternator producing AC power for traction motor current rather than the DC generator of the former design now referred to as the MP15DC. As direct current traction motors were retained, a space-consuming rectifier was necessary in the MP15AC, resulting in its chassis being about a foot and a half longer then the MP15DC. Also, the MP15AC incorporated Dash 2 electronic equipment, an even larger fuel tank, and an electric cooling system similar in design to those employed on the SD40T-2 Tunnel Motors, details which easily visually differentiate the 246 AC units built from the 351 MP15DCs. Original Class 1 roads purchasing the MP15AC included Louisville & Nashville, Milwaukee Road, SP, Seaboard Coast Line, Long Island, Missouri-Kansas-Texas, and NdeM. The majority of these units still operate yet today.

This end view of the RS-11's long hood affords us a view of the separately applied hand grabs, wire railing, and Train Phone antennae installed on this model. While molded-in, MTH has done a great job tooling the air line cooling grilles, the chicken wire screen covered engine compartment air intakes above the hood doors, and the radiator shutters with external actuator on this Phase I variant. Even though the AAR type B trucks are about a scale foot short in wheelbase (to enable the model to handle O-31 diameter curves), they are nicely molded and even included add-on brake cylinders.

The Railking Scale Models

Railking scale models, in general, share a common construction with plastic carbodies and diecast metal frames, trucks, pilots, fuel tanks, and couplers. The models' vital measurements, such as length over pilots, overall width and height, and distance between truck centers, follow published prototype dimensions, although most ride on trucks with slightly shortened wheelbases for maneuvering around the Railking Line's mandated O-31 minimum curves. Likewise, the various molded-in details such as hood doors, grilles, vents, battery boxes, and the like match those features of the prototype, too. Then there are the separately applied details such as metal handrails and stanchions, cab window glazing, hand brake, bell, and air horns. However, as we discovered with the SW-1 model, newly tooled Railking Scale locomotives are being spruced up with add-on wire hand grabs, windshield wipers, hand-painted crew figures installed in the cab, and some road-specific details to boot. Sure, they don't display the see-through photo-etched grille covers, add-on coupler lift bars and hoses, and better detailed scale trucks of the much higher priced MTH Premier locomotives, but the Railking Scale product line is nothing to sneeze at!

To be more specific, just take a look at our RS-11 sample decorated for Pennsylvania Railroad's AS-18m class diesel number 8630. MTH's dynamic-brake-equipped Phase I-based model (denoted by five equally spaced air intake filters across the top of the long hood and the externally mounted automatic actuator controlling the radiator shutters) is a perfect match for the real 8630. The model is even accurately equipped with a Train Phone antenna on its roof — nice touch MTH!

Despite it being a tad smaller than the RS-11, the 12-inch long, 4 pound, 3 ounce MP15AC has the muscle to get the job done on any 3-rail pike. CSX number 1170 was originally built as number 4200 for the Seaboard Coast Line in February 1978. It is currently on the roster with 55 other MP15ACs inherited from the Louisville & Nashville and SCL, and can be often seen working consists over branchlines and throughout yards from Michigan to Pennsylvania.

Like the RS-11, the EMD multi-purpose locomotive is blessed with hand-applied grab irons, metal railing, windshield wipers, cab glazing, and uniquely crafted crew figures seated inside. Also common to all Railking Scale locomotives are the truck mounted, diecast metal Proto-Couplers operated remotely from a conventional AC power pack or from the DCS handheld unit. Visible here, too, are the numerous small labels accurately applied to the MP15AC's well decorated carbody representing warning placards, the EMD builder's badges, the Flag, and a sticker signifying number 1170 being outfitted with an EcoTrans K9 Auxiliary Power Unit, which is an environmentally friendly and cost savings locomotive idle reduction system.

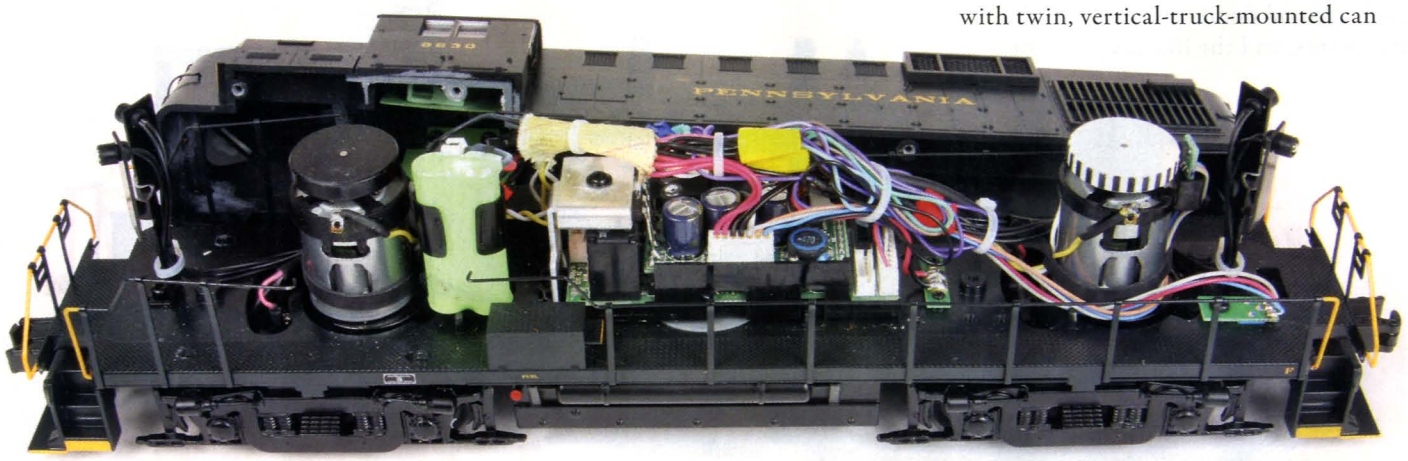
Decked out in a flawless application of Brunswick Green paint, the MTH road switcher is correctly replicated with the appropriate style Dulux-colored lettering right down to the "F," for front, appropriately on the end of the long hood's frame sides following the PRR's practice of running their RS-11's long hood forward. The orientation of the seated crew figures in the cab follow suit. Again, these are details I wouldn't expect to see in a lower-priced Railking offering. Furthermore, MTH has properly highlighted the railings at the platform steps, the edges of the lower platform and pilot steps, and the handholds at the rear of the cab door in yellow. A brass-colored bell and black-painted trucks and fuel tank round out MTH's commendable efforts.

The real RS-11s wore a rainbow of colors for a variety of railroads and MTH follows the lead in their first two releases of their O gauge model. Roadnames include: SP, NH, Conrail, PRR, LV, NP, NYC, and DW&P. Furthermore, all roadnames are being offered as non-powered versions, each with a unique roadnumber.

Then there's the MP15AC. Our number 1170, formerly Seaboard Systems number 4200, looks fresh out of CSX's diesel paint shops wearing the current YN3 type paint scheme with the appropriate safety handholds, step edges, and frame sides highlighted in yellow paint, plus an accurate white cab roof. It also displays the correct bell and air horn location, cab sunshades, properly sized lettering and numbers, a host of tiny but readable warning placards, EMD builder's badges, and the small US flags with class designation plus the EcoTrans K9 APU (a cost and energy savings, stand-alone locomotive idle reduction system) stickers on the cab sides as applied to the real 1170. The only thing the Railking version is lacking is working ditch lights and I can certainly live without that feature for the price of this model! If CSX isn't your bag, the MP15AC is also available decorated for original owner Milwaukee Road, and for units now operated by the Union Pacific and Canadian Pacific.

Bells and Whistles

As mentioned earlier, MTH has equipped these Railking Scale models with Proto-Sounds 2.0 and their Digital Command System, as well as Proto-Couplers, and Proto-Speed. This exclusive MTH command system can be operated in either conventional mode with almost any standard AC transformer or in command mode with a MTH DCS setup. A rechargeable backup battery is factory-installed in the model to insure uninterrupted sound effects in either mode. Both units are also outfitted with twin, vertical-truck-mounted can



Typical of the Railking Scale line of diesel-electrics in general, this interior view of the RS-11 displays the front can motor with flywheel, the green shrink-wrapped 2.4 volt NiCad self-charging battery pack for uninterrupted sound effects, the electronic circuitry of the DCS and Proto-Sound 2.0 system with speaker hidden below in the fuel tank, and the rear can motor with black-and-white-striped flywheel and optical speed control reader. Note also the upright brackets on either end of the metal chassis containing the bulbs that illuminate the number boards while the directionally controlled headlights are mounted inside the carbody. Everything works together to make a fine-running model.

MTH's Railking Scale models equal more bang for the buck in my book. Great detail, authentic decoration, and Proto-Sounds 2.0 all for under $300.00. What else could the budget minded 3-rail O gauger ask for when shopping for new motive power?

motors with flywheels and traction tires on the inside axle wheels of each truck.

Proto-Sounds 2.0 on board the RS-11 and MP15AC includes the following audio effects: multi-note air horn, mechanical bell, engine start-up and shut-down, eight levels of diesel engine roar, squealing brakes, cab chatter, and Freight Yard Sounds — a sound package in itself that sequentially plays a variety of sound bits typically heard in a freight yard. Additional incidental sounds such as the air compressor can be heard automatically or the clanking of a knuckle coupler opening occurs when the appropriate feature is activated. DCS control also offers a Doppler sound effect option, remote volume control of individual sound effects (a manual volume adjustment knob is located under either locomotives' chassis as well), and Proto-Dispatch/Proto-Cast, which allows users to speak or play audio recordings through the locomotive's speaker.

On the test track, both the RS-11 and MP15AC were a pleasure to operate in DCS mode. One of my favorite features of this system is its ability to add the locomotives, one at a time, to the handheld remote, which automatically recognizes the specific locomotive, including roadnumber, and assigns it an unused address, without any effort on my part. Of course, the unique sounds of the Alco 251 prime mover in the RS-11 and the MP15AC's 645 series engine, their distinctive air horns, and the rest of the sound effects are a treat not to be missed. Then there is the excellent speed control capability of DCS offering these two models consistent low speeds of about 3 scale miles per hour despite those tight O-31 diameter minimum curves and a tractive effort making each capable of pulling two dozen or more cars with ease. Our samples ran great right out of the box and the remotely activated couplers worked like a charm. Why the only thing here for Railking owners to be jealous of regarding their Premier counterparts is the lack of an operating exhaust system.

More Bang for the Buck

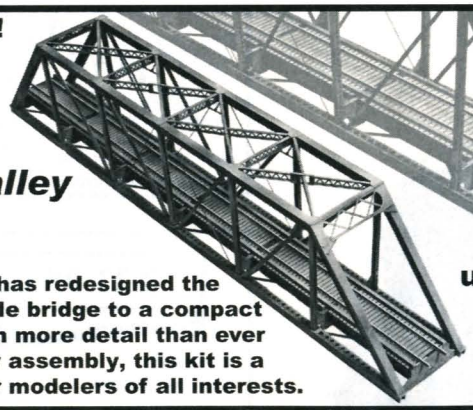
What else can I say? During these uncertain economic times in particular, the scale oriented 3-railer needs to be choosy what motive power he or she purchases with their limited funds. They need MAXIMUM bang for their buck and, I'm here to tell you, these new Railking Scale diesel locomotives certainly fit the bill!

The Scale Card™ Since 1993
P.O. Box 2872, Dept E
Crestline, CA, 92325-2872
It's Like Carrying Three Scale Figures in your Wallet
Credit Card Size
Available in: 32 Scales from 1:12 to 1:700
$5.95 Each O/S $6.45 ea
VISA/MC/Disc/AmEx
www.thescalecard.com (Also 24" & 6" Rules)

$21.95 ppd!
Maxi-Grip Fastener Holder
BVRR Specialties
ONE MAXI-GRIP HOLDS ANY TYPE SCREW, PLUS RING TERMINALS AND WASHERS WHICH CAN BE STACKED ON FOR EASY ASSEMBLY OR REMOVAL.
MACHINE SCREWS FASTENERS
www.BVRR.net
215-945-2203
Please see GR [2/08] & MRN [10/08] Product Reviews on this truly useful product.

ROBERTS'
BRICK MORTAR
FOR THE REAL LOOK OF BRICK & STONE
Recommended by Bachmann®, Chooch, Depots by John and Caboose Hobbies!
IT'S SO EASY!
Getting mortar lines on brick and stone has always been something you wanted, but was too messy and too risky!
With ROBERTS' you can't mess up!
Simply put it on and let it dry.
Wipe brick face off right away... the next day... the next week... or the next year!
Safe for plastic, plaster, wood, polyester, epoxy, polyurethane.
Water Clean Up • Paintable & Stainable
Each Ounce Covers Up To 5 Square Feet!
1 oz. $7.95 • 4 oz. $15.95 +$4 shipping per order
Add 5% sales tax for WI residents
robertsbrickmortar.com
ROBERTS' Products Co.
P.O.Box 270057 • Milwaukee, WI 53227

Introducing!
The #1810
N-Scale
Central
Valley
150' Truss
Bridge Kit!

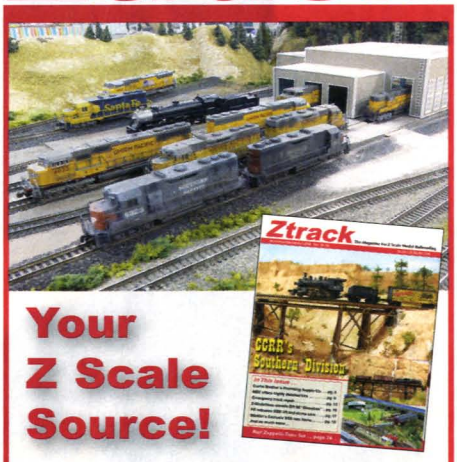


Not only for use on an N-scale railroad; this classic bridge kit is perfect for use as a display on your desk-top or trophy cabinet.

Central Valley has redesigned the classic HO-scale bridge to a compact 1/160 size! With more detail than ever and super easy assembly, this kit is a *MUST-HAVE* for modelers of all interests.

NEW N-SCALE FROM CENTRAL VALLEY MODEL WORKS www.CVMW.com Made in USA
1203 PIKE LANE ~ OCEANO ~ CA 93445 phone: 805-489-8586 email: sales@cvmw.com

Ztrack



Your Z Scale Source!

All Z, all the time! New items, layouts, reviews, how-to articles, and so much more! Six issues per year. $36.00 annually ($46.00 Canada, $56.00 International).

Ztrack Magazine, Ltd.
6142 Northcliff Blvd.
Dublin, OH 43016
(614) 764-1703

www.ztrack.com

New Rail Models
Division of Proto Power West

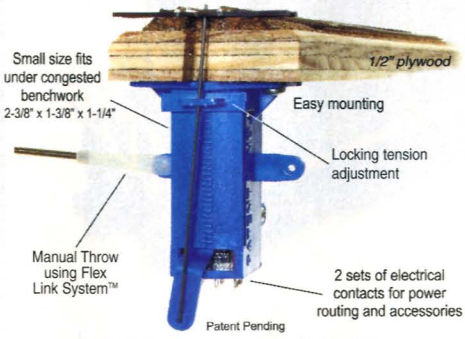
Universal Throttle Pockets™ hold corded and non-corded throttles

Folding Drink and Tool holder

Blue Point™ Flex Link

Blue Point™ Switch Machine

The best choice for your non-motor driven turnouts!


1/2" plywood
Small size fits under congested benchwork
2-3/8" x 1-3/8" x 1-1/4"
Easy mounting
Locking tension adjustment
Manual Throw using Flex Link System™
2 sets of electrical contacts for power routing and accessories
Patent Pending

www.newrailmodels.com
(760)721-3393

NEW! GarGraves 054 Switch

Length 10.622"; Frog Angle 18.684 degrees; Center Rail Radius 26.362"
Crossover Configuration 4.275" center rail to center rail
Available with Caboose Industries manual
Ground Throw (shown)
or DZ 1000 or DZ 2500 switch Machines

GarGraves®
TRACKAGE CORPORATION
8967 RIDGE ROAD, NORTH ROSE, N.Y. 14516-9793
PHONE 315-483-6577 FAX 315-483-2425
Website: www.GarGraves.com • E-Mail: GarGravestrack@aol.com

GarGraves track is available in 37 inch flexible format as well as 13 different pre-formed curved sectional pieces and 4 straight sectional pieces. All GarGraves products are proudly made in the USA.

Micro-Trains 'Making Strides Against Cancer'

Micro-Trains donates 10% proceeds of Wisconsin & Southern boxcar to the American Cancer Society

Z, N & HO — Micro-Trains has released a 40-foot standard boxcar, two 50-foot gondolas, two PS-2 70 ton two-bay covered hoppers, and a 40-foot standard boxcar in Z-scale. Available in Z and N scales is a wood sheathed car for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey. Two railway post office cars, two 100-ton three-bay open hoppers, a 50-foot standard boxcar, a bay window caboose, a 40-foot standard boxcar with plug door and no roofwalk, a 40-foot standard boxcar with sliding door, and a 89-foot 4-inch COFC flat car with container is available in N-scale. Finally, a 30-foot flat car is available in HOn3.

Z Scale

A 40-foot standard boxcar with plug door has been released for Kentucky State. KY 1792 is the sixteenth car of a 50-car series representing each of the 50 states in the union. It bears the Cardinal and Goldenrod, Kentucky's official state bird and flower. The flag of the state of Kentucky is in the background. The roadnumber 1792 represents the year 'The Bluegrass State' was admitted into the union. The boxcar (#502 00 516) retails for $22.95.

Two 50-foot gondolas with fishbelly sides, drop ends, and scrap iron loads are available for Lehigh Valley. LV 33354 and 33452 are painted boxcar red with white logos and lettering. They were built in October 1951, serviced in October 1978, and run on Roller Bearing trucks. These gondolas were stenciled with large billboard 'Lehigh Valley' with their diamond logo. They were both equipped with wood floors. The gondolas (#522 00 211 & #522 00 212) retail for $23.40.

Two PS-2 70 ton two-bay covered hoppers have been released for U.S. Silica. ISPX 10004 and 10005 are painted light gray with black lettering. They were built in 1969, serviced in 1978, and run on Roller Bearing trucks. The principle commodities handled

by these hoppers are cement, sand, potash, soda ash, lime, alumina, fertilizers, dolomite, soap, salt, plastic pellets, and flour. Since many of these materials were highly corrosive, the PS-2 was designed to withstand their inherent effects and keep maintenance regulations to a minimum. The hoppers (#531 00 111 & #531 00 112) retail for $21.80.

A 40-foot standard boxcar with single sliding door is available for Missouri Pacific, MP 129685. It is painted boxcar red with white lettering, red and white MP logo, and multi-colored 'Herbie' graffiti. It runs on Roller Bearing trucks. In 1979, MP's Arkansas division safety committee held a contest for a new safety slogan to be used on safety posters. David Newborne, a car man in Memphis, TN, won the contest. The committee decided to paint it on the side of MP 129685 and subsequently it toured the MP system in active service. The boxcar (#500 00 610) retails for $25.40.

N & Z scale

A wood-sheathed car has been released for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey. Billboard Car #3 is painted brown and features a colorful representation of an actual Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey poster. In the first half of the Twentieth Century Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey had the largest exotic animal collection in the world. Created in the 1920s, this poster exemplifies the variety of exotic animals showcased in their shows. The boxcar retails for $25.95 for N-scale (#047 00 403) and $29.95 for Z-scale (#515 00 603).

N Scale

Two railway post office cars have been released. Great Northern is painted Pullman green with a black roof, gold lettering, and is available for roadnumber 35. It was built by Laconia Car Company and runs on passenger trucks. New York, New Haven & Hartford is painted Pullman green, with a black roof, gold lettering, and is available for roadnumber 3280. It was built in 1918 by Pullman Standard and runs on passenger trucks. In the United States a railway post office, commonly abbreviated as RPO, was a railroad car that was normally operated in passenger service as a means to sort mail en route, in order to speed delivery. Great Northern (#140 00 010) retails for $19.35, and New York, New Haven & Hartford (#140 00 020) retails for $20.15

A 50-foot standard boxcar with double plug doors and no roofwalk has been released for Wisconsin & Southern, WSOR 503196. It is painted pink and lettered in black with black Wisconsin & Southern herald as well as a black outline of a Breast Cancer Awareness ribbon with the slogan 'Making Strides Against Cancer.' It runs on Roller Bearing trucks. WSOR repainted this car in memory of Lucy Stone Gardner, late wife of WSOR owner Bill Gardner. Lucy lost her fight against cancer three years prior; Bill commemorated her fight and raised awareness with this boxcar. Micro-Trains will donate 10 percent of the proceeds of every car sold to the breast cancer fund of the American Cancer Society. The boxcar (#075 00 170) retails for $21.15.

Two 100 ton three-bay open hoppers with coal loads and operating bay doors are available for Norfolk Southern, NS 146557 and NS 146559. They are painted black with white logos and lettering. Yellow reflectors run the lower length of the hoppers. They were built in March 2008 and run on Barber Roller Bearing trucks. These AAR class HT open hoppers are open top self-clearing cars, having fixed sides and ends and bottom consisting of three or more divided hoppers with doors hinged crosswise of car and dumping between rails. The hoppers (#108 00 191 & #108 00 192) retail for $20.90.

A bay window caboose is available for Southern Pacific, SP 4745. It is painted mineral red with daylight orange ends and bay sides and lettered in white. It was built between March and May 1980 by International Car Co./PACCAR and runs on Bettendorf Swing-Motion caboose trucks. The bay window, or side-hung cupola, debuted on the Southern Pacific Lines in 1947. They were designed in response to increasing freight car height and the resultant decrease in visibility from the cupola. The caboose (#130 00 011) retails for $32.85.

A 40-foot standard boxcar with plug door and no roofwalk is the fourteenth car of a 44-car series representing each of the presidents of the United States. It bears the portrait of our 39th president, James Earl "Jimmy" Carter. The car comes with a commemorative pin replicated from that era. Nuclear physicist, peanut farmer, and president, Carter was best recognized with a Nobel Peace Prize for his work promoting world peace and human rights through The Carter Center. He founded the center with his wife, Rosalynn. The roadnumber, 1977-1981, represents his years in office. The boxcar (#074 00 114) retails for $23.95.

A 40-foot standard boxcar with sliding door has been released for Northern Pacific, NP 27552. It is painted boxcar red with white logo and lettering and runs on Bettendorf trucks. Built and purchased in April 1942 by Northern Pacific, this boxcar was painted into the Northern Pacific paint scheme with a 36-foot Monad herald employed between 1942 and 1948. The boxcar (#020 00 980) retails for $19.50.

An 89-foot 4-inch COFC flat car with container is available for TTX Company,

TTAX 972220. It is painted brown with white and yellow logo and white lettering. It was built in October 1968 and runs on Barber Roller Bearing trucks. This flat car hauled containers, such as those owned by CAST Transportation, around the nation.

HOn3

A 30-foot flat car is available for Sumpter Valley Railway, SVRY 145. It is painted boxcar red with white lettering and runs on Bettendorf trucks. The Sumpter Valley Railway Company was incorporated in the state of Oregon on August 18, 1890, hauling people, logs, and lumber. The Great Depression forced the short line to abandon its mainline and discontinue its passenger service, though the line continued to haul logs and lumber from the sawmills to South Baker. The last freight train steamed into South Baker in 1947. The new Sumpter Valley Railway dates to the early 1970s. It was incorporated as a nonprofit in the hope of reviving the old railroad as a tourist line. SVRY 145 is one of the cars now on the new SVRY. The line continues to grow and advocates work hard to preserve and promote this small short line's history. The flat car (#855 00 060) retails for $35.30.

Micro-Trains Line Co., P.O. Box 1200, Talent, OR 97540-1200; 541-535-1755; Fax: 541-535-1932; E-mail: mtl@micro-trains.com; www.micro-trains.com

NORTHEASTERN SCALE LUMBER CO.

Return of the Classic Snow Plow

Exclusive only from NESL

$79.99 Kit #01 plus shipping

- HO scale craftsman kit
- Lasercut
- Excludes Trucks, couplers, paint
- Includes castings
- Production run of Only 500

The Finest Precision Scale Hardwood for Hobbyists, Architects and the Model Industry.

99 Cross Street, Methuen, MA 01844

1-800 343-2094 • www.northeasternscalelumber.com

South Bend Signal Company, LLC

"Making Your Railroad Real"

- HO-N-O and Large Scale Signals and Systems
- We make custom signals to your specifications!

Visit Us at: www.sbsignal.com
2303 Creek Rd.
Niles, MI 49120

EasyFit HO & N Scale Freight Car Loads

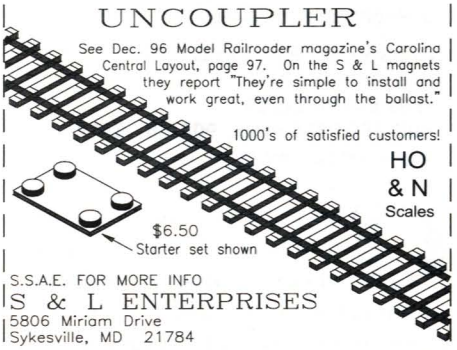
Now the exclusive North American importer of high-quality Duha products from the Czech Republic.

NEW Steel - Coil - Pipe - Lumber Loads & More!
JWD Premium Products, PO Box 88, Liberty, ME 04949
www.jwdpremiumproducts.com

CABOOSE HOBBIES®
THE WORLD'S LARGEST MODEL TRAIN STORE
www.caboosehobbies.com
500 South Broadway, Denver, CO 80209-4002
Phone: (303) 777-6766 · Orders Only: (800) 886-1813 · Fax (303) 777-0028

TOTALLY HIDDEN UNCOUPLER

See Dec. 96 Model Railroader magazine's Carolina Central Layout, page 97. On the S & L magnets they report "They're simple to install and work great, even through the ballast."



1000's of satisfied customers!
HO & N Scales
$6.50
Starter set shown

S.S.A.E. FOR MORE INFO
S & L ENTERPRISES
5806 Miriam Drive
Sykesville, MD 21784
on the web go to... www.gardenmetalmodels.com/magnets
Shipping & handling $2.50 per order
Check or Money Order only
Dealer Inquiries Invited

"Digitrax ... answered my questions and provided specific information...helping me choose the system that was right for me!"

Steve Moulton at 60 is beginning construction of a new layout, modeling the late pre-merger Pennsylvania of the 1960's. His HO scale layout will encompass all the lessons learned in building his previous layouts.

"This time around, my new layout will be totally DCC from design through implementation. I had narrowed my selections to Digitrax and a competitor's system. My initial leaning was toward the competitor's system because I wanted access to all 28 functions, but I did have reservations about the low power capabilities the other system afforded.

"As it turned out, Digitrax was much more helpful as they informed me the DT402 would soon support 28 functions, answering my questions and providing specific information. The competitor's contact simply told me that all the systems have their pros and cons, and then he provided me with links to documents I had already discovered on the web."

"Last month I purchased a Digitrax Duplex radio-equipped 5-amp Super Chief Xtra, and I'm extremely happy with my decision."

"Digitrax Complete Train Control Gives you the Power to Build your Railroad and Operate Your Way!"

Digitrax, Inc 2443 Transmitter RD, Panama City, FL 32404 - Phone (850) 872 9890
Visit us on the web at www.digitrax.com

DIGITRAX®
Complete Train Control

REVIEW N

Building a coal drag without draining your wallet

These beautiful 2-Bay Offset Hoppers will look good on any coal hauling layout or in a freight train passing through. With sharp lettering, attention to detail, and smooth running wheel sets, these cars will not disappoint. With different roadnames and an undecorated model to choose from, you should be able to find something to fit your needs.

Review and Photos by Art Lake

Atlas Master N scale 2-Bay Offset Side Hopper (#42203), Clinchfield, MSRP: $16.95

Undecorated; MSRP: $14.95

3-Pack; MSRP: $50.85

Atlas Model Railroad Co. Inc.
378 Florence Ave.
Hillside, NJ 07205
908-687-0880 • Fax: 908-687-6857
www.atlasrr.com

OVER the years, the coal hauling railroads have used a variety of coal hauling cars utilizing anything from wood- and steel-sided gondolas, to converted flat cars, to ribbed and smooth-sided hoppers. Atlas is now offering their Master Rolling Stock Line series the 2-bay offset side hopper car in several roadnames with different numbers. This style of car was in service on some railroads from the 1920s into the 1980s.

The Clinchfield Railroad

The Clinchfield Railroad is one of the most popular and frequently modeled of all railroads. There are many reasons for this. It has many engineering challenges, just like the prototype; let's not forget the beautiful scenery, the locomotives, and the rolling stock, just to name a few.

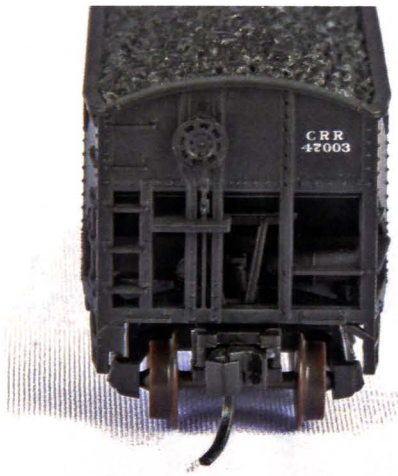
The Clinchfield Railroad is one of the less notable fallen flags, most likely due to its very small size, only a tad over 300 miles at its peak! However, the railroad does hold an important place in railroading history and is best remembered as another of the Appalachian coal haulers, lugging millions of tons of black diamonds from the mountains of Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Along with the railroad's association with coal, it also served as a very effective north-south bridge line for traffic of railroads such as the Southern and Chesapeake & Ohio.

The Clinchfield Railroad, as some of us know it today, began operating the line on December 1, 1924. For many years it was leased jointly by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. When the L&N merged with the ACL's successor, the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad January 1, 1983, it formed the Seaboard System Railroad; the separate operating company was unnecessary and was merged into the Seaboard. The line is now owned and operated by CSX Transportation as their Blue Ridge Subdivision and their Kingsport Subdivision,

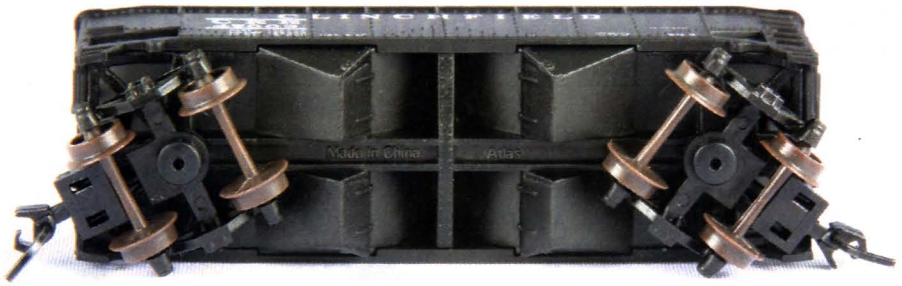
Atlas Master N Clinchfield 2-Bay Offset Side Hopper

The Atlas Hopper is a good-looking replica of the original Clinchfield 2-bay offset side hopper prototype. Built by the American Car and Foundry Company in 1937, this 33-foot offset side twin hopper with 50-ton trucks matches the measurements of the prototype drawings. Atlas is known for their accuracy and I am not indicating that they made a mistake; however, this hopper appears to me to be modeled after the 51000 series car. Both series are almost identical. The ends on this car appear to resemble the oval ends instead of the peaked ends. The peaked ends are more peaked and squared at the top instead of being rounded like the review

Accurate, crisp, easy-to-read lettering, good-looking coal load, and nicely detailed rivets gives these 2-Bay Offset Hoppers the appearance of the prototype rolling through the scenic mountains of the Clinchfield. Purchase a couple of 3-packs with different roadnumbers and they will look right at home on your layout.



This is the business end of the hopper. Accurate detailing, right down to the brake chain. Notice how the accurate detailing of the brake equipment makes this car stand out? The ends look like they are the oval ends instead of the peaked end. However, whichever end you think they should be, will not lessen the beauty of these 2-Bay Offset Hopper cars.



Just like the prototype, there isn't much to the bottom. The trucks are pin-mounted with AccuMate Couplers. Atlas captured the essential quality of the hopper bottom with very good rivet detail around the hopper dump doors and the frame.

sample. The detailed brake cylinder and linkage are excellent and the roadname, reporting lettering, and the data lettering (using a magnifying glass) are crisp and accurate. The wheelsets are free-rolling and smooth-riding, and the coal load looks realistic. This car sits level and looks great, just like the prototype; sharp molding, AccuMate couplers, and reasonable price make this car a must for any model railroader to own.

Atlas offers these fine cars with Flat Ends in Delaware & Hudson, Frisco, Missouri Pacific, and Reading with two different numbers along with the 3-pack. Modeled with Peaked Ends offerings include Chesapeake & Ohio, Clinchfield, Montour, and Nickel Plate Road with two different numbers along with the 3-pack. Both end style versions are also offered in an undecorated version. Check them out at your favorite hobby store or at Atlas's website.

Now To the Test Track

Using the NMRA recommended practices and standards, the wheel and coupler height are correct. According to the recommended weight for the size of 2.75 inches, the weight should be 0.91 ounces. This car weighed in at 0.74, a little light for its size. The trip pin height on one coupler was too low and both the weight and coupler height needed to be corrected before moving on to the test track.

Testing this car did not disappoint. The test track is made of sectional track with molded in roadbed, the car tracks straight with no wobble and matched up with other brands of couplers. After running on this test track for a few minutes, it was moved to the layout with tight curves (9-3/4 inch) and a number of Atlas Custom Standard switches — its performance was flawless. Atlas did a fantastic job of engineering of this car because it is a great running (and looking) replica of rolling stock. After testing for a couple of hours, I could not find anything flawed with this car.

In Closing

Atlas has come through for us again. After inspecting this car, I think you will like what you see and after running it on your layout, I believe you will agree with me that this is a great car. The hopper is a wonderful addition for those who model the steam-to-diesel-era through the 1970s. Or if you're like me, any era so long as you like the hopper.

ATMA®
ALLENTOWN TRAIN MEET ASSOCIATES

FIRST FROST® TRAIN MEET
SAT. NOV. 14, 2009
SUN. NOV. 15, 2009
ALLENTOWN AGRICULTURAL HALL
17TH & CHEW STREETS
ALLENTOWN, PA
Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. • Sun. 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
BUY • TRADE • SELL • TEST
DOOR PRIZES
REFRESHMENTS

TRAIN RACES • TEST TRACK • SWITCHING AND OPERATING LAYOUTS
OVER 50,000 SQ. FT. OF TABLES AND DISPLAYS

TOY TRAINS • SCALE • RAILROADIANA
Adults - $6.00 • Children under 12 - FREE
ATMA • 1120 S. Jefferson, Allentown, PA 18103 • (610) 821-7886 (No phone calls after 9 p.m.)
TRAINING FOR A NEW CENTURY

SUNCOAST MODEL RAILROAD CLUB
TRAIN SHOW & OPEN HOUSE
Dec. 12-13th, Time: 10am - 4pm
Both in Largo, Florida 33773

TRAIN SHOW:
Minnreg Hall, 6340 126th Ave.
100+ Tables, Trains & RR Accessories
Admission: $5 - Adults; $1- ages 12-17;
Under 11 - Free. Parking is Free.

OPEN HOUSE:
Club House, 12355 62nd St N, Ste A
HO & N Operating Layouts
Admission: Free. Parking is Free.

SUNCOAST MODEL RAILROAD CLUB
12355 62nd St N, Ste A, Largo, FL 33773
(727) 523-1860
E-mail: info@suncoastmrrc.com
www.suncoastmrrc.com

Rebuilt, retooled, and ready to run!

Intermountain releases new ATSF rebuilt cabooses

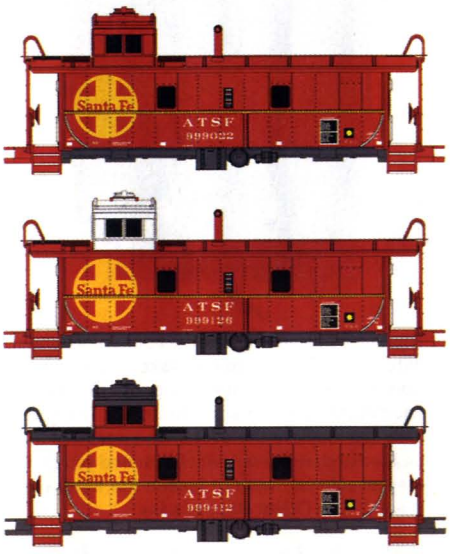
N— Intermountain has released a new stock car with K brakes, three stock cars with AB brakes, and three new ATSF rebuilt cabooses with all new tooling.

A new stock car with K brakes has been released for ATSF (#67907) for the SK-R class in the second paint scheme with a mineral red body and white lettering. It is available for roadnumbers 50581, 50588, 50639, 50646, 50706, and 50784. It comes fully assembled with Micro-Trains trucks and couplers. The stock car retails for $19.95.

Three new stock cars with AB brakes are now available. ATSF SK-T (#67914) is painted in the post 1962 scheme of mineral red with white lettering; it is available for roadnumbers 60008, 60160, 60252, 60371, 60403, and 60482; ATSF SK-U (#67917) is decorated in the 1945-1955 scheme, it is painted mineral red with white lettering, it is available for numbers 60506, 60515, 60628, 60656, 60709, and 60720; and ATSF SK-S (#69718) is in the 1945-1955 scheme, painted mineral red with white lettering, the door is painted yellow, and it is available for numbers 68853, 68896, 68914, 69038,

69057, and 69062. The stock cars come fully assembled with Micro-Trains trucks and couplers. They retail for $19.95 each.

Three ATSF rebuilt cabooses have been released. The Red CE-1 (#CCS6080) is painted bright red with the large Santa Fe herald in yellow and the lettering in white; it is available for roadnumbers 999000, 999022, 999093, and 999110. Red CE-1 with white cupola (#CCS6082) is painted bright red with the large Santa Fe herald in yellow and the lettering in white, the cupola is white to indicate special service; it is available for numbers 999048 and 999126. Red CE-2 with black roof (#CCS6086) is painted bright red with a black roof, the large Santa Fe herald is yellow and the lettering is white; it is available for numbers 999360,



999426, 999435, and 999471. The Santa Fe Railway remanufactured hundreds of their steel cabooses in the 1960s. The Intermountain Railway N-scale ATSF rebuilt caboose is a new model with all new tooling. The models have finely molded details, etched metal details, and wire grab irons. The models are equipped with Micro-Trains trucks and couplers, and retail for $32.95.

Intermountain Railway Co., P.O. Box 839, Longmont, CO 80502-0839; 303-772-1901; Fax: 303-772-8534; E-mail: intermountain@intermountain-railway.com; www.intermountain-railway.com

NEW HO KIT
The Gorham
Midtown Apartments
Park Hotel
It's so tall it's crazy!
City Structures
HO & N Scale Kits from CMR
A complete line of structures that can be made even taller with our Add-On kits
410-889-0010
CMR 3937 Keswick Road Baltimore, MD 21211
Visit our web site to see these and many more exciting kits from CMR
www.custommodelrailroads.com

NEW FROM ACCURAIL
MADE IN THE USA
www.accurail.com

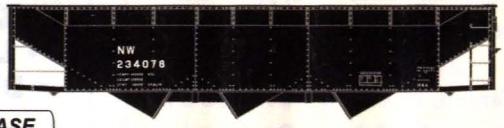
#37264 LOUISVILLE & NASHVILLE
3-Number Set
$39.98 Retail

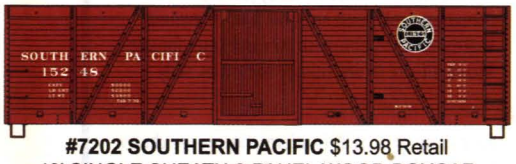
Please note: Singles are taken randomly from the 3-pack

#3726 LOUISVILLE & NASHVILLE 41' STEEL GONDOLA (Single) $13.98 Retail

#4838 DELAWARE & HUDSON 40' WOOD REEFER $13.98 Retail

#7538 NORFOLK & WESTERN
70-TON TRIPLE HOPPER $13.98 Retail





#7202 SOUTHERN PACIFIC $13.98 Retail
40' SINGLE SHEATH 6-PANEL WOOD BOXCAR
Made under license from the Union Pacific Railroad Company

OCTOBER'S LIMITED RUN RELEASE
#26083 C&O 6-NUMBER SET
55-TON USRA HOPPERS $74.98 Retail

#2566
NEW YORK NEW HAVEN & HARTFORD
USRA TWIN HOPPER $12.98 RETAIL

#4731 NICKEL PLATE 40' WOOD STOCK CAR $13.98 Retail

PLEASE SEE YOUR DEALER FIRST! OR CALL 630-365-1173 FOR CREDIT CARD ORDERS. ACCURAIL PRODUCTS ARE INTENDED FOR AGES 14 AND UP

New Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey™
N & Z Scale Billboard Series

RINGLING BROS. & BARNUM & BAILEY THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

RINGLING BROS-BARNUM & BAILEY
COMBINED SHOWS
NEW JUNGLE CIRCUS A COMPLETE BIG TRAINED ANIMAL SHOW GRATUITOUSLY ADDED
RINGLING BROS SHOWS
THE WORLD'S GREATEST CIRCUS
RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY COMBINED SHOWS

Inspired by Actual Vintage Posters

©FELD ENTERTAINMENT
www.Ringling.com

MICRO-TRAINS® LINE

Available through your local authorized Micro-Trains dealer
2009 Micro-Trains Line Co. • P.O. Box 1200, Talent OR 97540-1200 USA
Web: www.micro-trains.com • Email: mtl@micro-trains.com

N® SCALE 1:160 Z® SCALE 1:220

THE ULTIMATE MODEL RAILROAD INVENTORY SYSTEM

Keep your collection on the Internet!
- No programs or files to install or back up
- Get the latest enhancements by just signing on
- Access your collection any time from anywhere
- Share your collection, wish lists and items for sale
- Secure off-site record storage backed up daily

As simple or sophisticated as you want it!
- Keep as much or as little information as you choose
- Complete, logical and flexible data organization
- Use for scheduling maintenance or operating sessions

Load your collection quickly and easily!
- Quick System Tour teaches you the system fast
- Table driven menus you can customize your way
- Record cloning capability saves on data entry

Enjoy the many advantages of our features!
- Powerful search and record selection engine
- Easy to use Report Writer and File Extractor
- Select and download any data to your PC or PDA

What's new at TrackMyTrains.com?
- Faster response and lower cost than ever before!
- Manufacturers' reference databases & more coming

http://www.TrackMyTrains.com
Try our system absolutely FREE! (No credit card needed!)

TrackMyTrains.com

Mount Vernon Shops

Primary repair shop for Samhongsa built models
Specializing in repair of painted models
Soundtraxx decoder installation in brass steam and diesel engines
Huge Inventory ▪ Tens of 1000s of parts!
OEM lighting boards ▪ Body parts ▪ Brass
Valve gear parts ▪ Paints ▪ and Much more

4920 Blackford Rd E
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620 ▪ 812-838-3929
Email: RoySchnoor@aol.com

DC hobby supply
Your online source for:

Quality DCC Equipment
• Digitrax • TCS • NCE •
• QSI • SoundTraxx •
• Lenz • Blackstone •
• DCC/Sound Installs •
dcchobbysupply.com

2010 National N Scale Convention
HOUSTON, TEXAS
18th N Scale Collector Convention
Tues June 22 to Sat June 26, 2010

N Scale Collector Society

Member benefits include:
- 6 issues of the NSC Magazine, full of amazing information and full color photos
- Opportunity to purchase limited edition trains
- Auctions & Special Sales 8 Auction per year with over 500 items per auction, including brass loco's, collector train sets & Micro-Trains® all in collectible condition
- Annual N Scale Convention • Web Resources
- Free Membership Car from Micro-Trains

2009 MEMBERSHIP CAR FREE
when you join the N Scale Collector Society

Annual membership is only
$40.00 *Higher in Canada & International*
The N Scale Collector®
P.O. Box 30489
Savannah, GA 31410
Or Online at
www.nscalecollector.com

BRING A COPY OF THIS AD
AND RECEIVE $1.00 OFF REGULAR ADMISSION PRICE

Proudly Hosting
The 2009
Southern Plains Region
N-Scale Convention

OkTrain Show

Admission:
$7.00
Children under 12:
FREE

Great Train Set Giveaway

Ages 12 & under • Every hour • Must be present to win
Sponsored by Athearn, Walthers, Whistle Stop Trains of Oklahoma City and Others

December 5th and 6th, 2009

In the Travel & Transportation Building
at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds

Saturday 9 to 5 · Sunday 11 to 5

www.okctrainshow.com **405.842.4846**

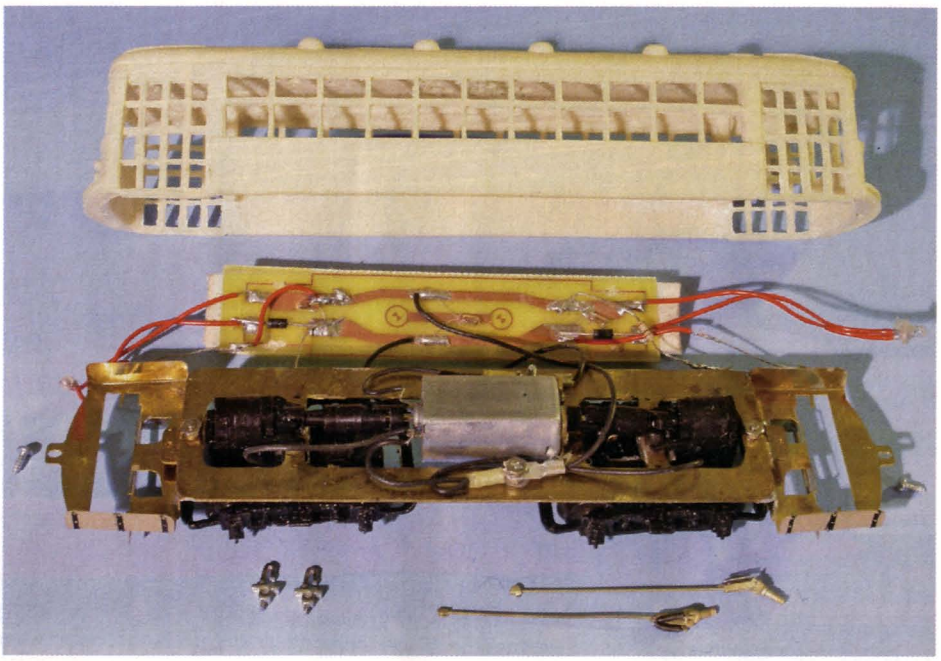
REVIEWS

Adding Public Transit with help from PHM

Review and Photos by Dick Karnes

Birney Streetcar, S scale, all versions, MSRP: $160.00

Pennsylvania Heritage Models, Ltd.
715 Ridgeway Road
Birdsboro, PA 19508
800-238-0072
www.paheritagemodels.com

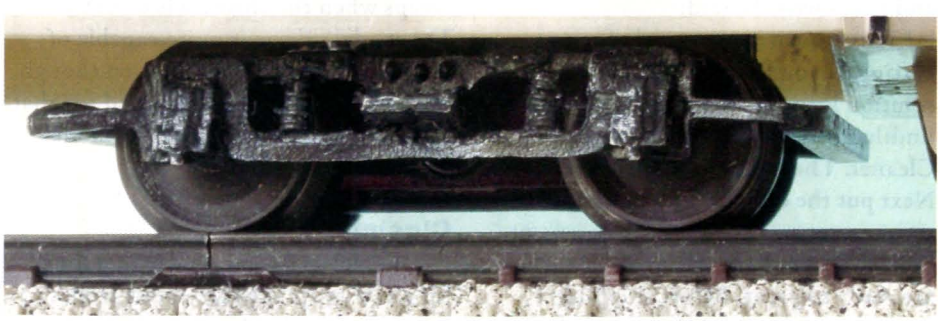


Here's what's in the Pennsylvania Heritage Models box: resin carbody, chassis with PC illumination board already connected, two pole hooks, two sprung trolley poles, two chassis mounting screws, and (not shown) an assembly instruction sheet. The front and rear chassis extensions have integral pilots and folded boarding steps with hardware detail already painted.

THE double-truck Birney streetcar was an effort by the various car manufacturers to cut operational costs and still provide a somewhat comfortable ride. Per the Birney-trolley.org website, "Two men in particular were responsible for the advent of one-man, single-truck, light-weight 'safety cars,' as they were called. Joseph M. Bosenbury and Charles O. Birney apparently worked both together and independently on the development of these trolleys. The patents covering the special elements of the cars were issued to Mr. Bosenbury, who assigned one-half of the patent rights to Mr. Birney. Although applied for in 1915, the patents were not granted until 1917 and 1919, probably delayed as a result of the war."

"...the Birney Car was ... an electric streetcar constructed in accordance with the design set forth by Charles O. Birney and which would meet the following criteria, including both the single and double-truck unit types, lightweight steel structure, safety car designated, one person operated, economical to operate, steel-wheeled, overhead wire electric street car with the purpose of easily moving riders efficiently and effectively within and between cities. This was a design adhered to by the following Electric Streetcar Manufacturing Companies in accordance with Birney Safety Car manufacturing or modification specifications required to constitute what was and what still is referred to as a Birney Car by: American Car Company, Bradley Company, Cincinnati Car Company, J. G. Brill and Company, McGuire Cummings Manufacturing Company, St. Louis Car Company, Sumerset Traction, The Wason Company, and the Ottawa Car Manufacturing Company of Canada amongst others local home shop facilities."

The cars were lightweight with a monocoque design where the sides and roof all helped to maintain the structure of the car. They were built in many variations including combines. Some had light duty trucks, while others were placed on trucks that the trolley companies salvaged from retired cars.



Brill Type 27 MCB truck sideframes come already installed and painted on the PHM Birney trolley car chassis.

The Model

Pennsylvania Heritage Models (PHM) picked a typical Birney carbody type found on many lines in the US, but otherwise was not specific. The dimensions match a Brill car of similar design in Carstens' "Traction Planbook, New Second Edition," second printing, 1978, pages 24-25, except for the width, which is ten feet on the model instead of 8-1/2 feet. However, given the diversity of Birney car manufacturers, a ten-foot-wide car could have been produced. The sideframes are a Brill Type 27 MCB truck. The car is powered by an HO Athearn diesel-switcher motor, drive, trucks, and axle gears mounted on a three-piece formed stamped and etched brass chassis. The wheels are gauged to S standard gauge. The wheelsets remain centered on the HO power trucks by means of washers between each journal and its adjacent inside wheel surface.

Three of the four 31-inch wheelsets on our scale sample complied with the NASG/NMRA standards gauge. One wheelset was spaced too widely, but is easily remedied by twisting the wheels on the axle by hand. The AF-compatible 33-inch wheelsets were not checked, as there is no consistent cross-manufacturer standard for S AF-compatible wheelsets.

The completed PHM trolley car makes a handsome addition to any layout. This "City Transit" car with its gray roof, cream window belt, and red lower panels and doors, will soon be providing street service to Troy Union Station travelers. Decal lettering is from two Walthers "Bailey Savings and Loan" building kits (Walthers Part No. 933-3031). Route sign (barely visible at top left of car end) is pieced together from a Champ HO Part No. X-59 "bug board" decal set.

The ready-to-complete car is neatly and carefully packaged in a heavy-duty white cardboard box. It includes the molded resin body shell mounted on the motorized chassis. A circuit board with four directional LEDs (white in running direction, red in trailing direction) and a bulb for interior lighting is already wired to the chassis, but the LEDs are not cemented into their body sockets. This allows the purchaser to cement them in place after painting. Double-stick foam tape is mounted on the circuit board so the modeler can pull off the protective strip and press it firmly against the inside of the roof after painting.

Several additional parts are included: two trolley poles that simply slip into pole bases that are already mounted on the roof walk; two pole hooks to be glued into the predrilled holes in the roof; and clear styrene window material already cut to size, ready for gluing inside the carbody after painting. The carbody has very little molding flash, and is easily removed with a modeling knife.

The model comes in both DC and AC versions, unpainted only, with either American Flyer-compatible or NMRA/NASG-compliant scale wheelsets. The AC version has a one-amp bridge rectifier to change the AC track current to DC for the permag motor. As such, the AC car is unidirectional. Unless specified otherwise, the shipped model is the DC AF-compatible version.

Painting and Finishing Considerations

PHM tells us that the resin carbodies are cleaned of mold release before they are shipped. However, we encountered residual mold release on our carbody interior. This prevents adhesion of cyanoacrylate (CA) glue, necessary for attaching the clear styrene window material. The common method, light scrubbing in lacquer thinner, does not remove this particular mold release. We discussed this situation with the vendor, and here's what he said:

"This issue is very typical of resin casting. If you have trouble, the safe solution is to soak resin parts in a tub of undiluted Westley's Bleche-Wite Tire Cleaner. Then, rinse with warm water. Next put the carbody in a bowl or tub of warm water and dishwashing detergent, such as Dawn. Rinse them, dry, and you are ready to paint. Before shipping, I wash the shells with MEK (methyl ethyl ketone) to make sure they are clean. The molder will also be cleaning them. This should give a good surface to work with. The purchaser should do a final rinse with dish-washing soap and water, then use disposable gloves."

To discover whether you have an adhesion problem with your carbody, try gluing a small scrap of styrene to the inside of the carbody with CA glue. If the glue sets up right away you are good to go. If not, you will need to scrub.

Before painting, make sure the chassis nestles squarely against the bottoms of the four square-section posts molded into the inside of the carbody. You may have to carefully remove some carbody material from behind the permanently folded brass entry steps in order to accomplish this. If the chassis doesn't quite meet the bottoms of these posts, the car will lean to one side.

The completed car is quite handsome, and the built-in reversing headlights and red taillights are a real plus. Hiding the internal lighting wires and resistors is on my list of future projects. I intend to replace and reroute the wire leads from the ceiling-mounted circuit board down between windows and provide a simple plug and socket at floor level instead of the stock screw terminals provided on the model.

Operation

The drive is smooth, quiet, and efficient, as one would expect from an Athearn product. The trolley barely creeps when the throttle is cracked. The model's drive is quite capable of pulling a substantial load, even though the prototype was not designed for that. Neither the prototype nor the model has couplers.

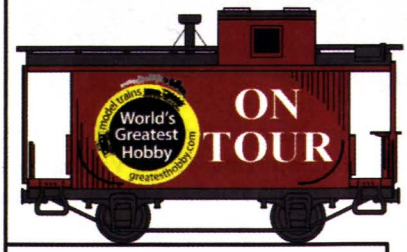
Closing

S modelers have waited a long time for a two-truck, double-ended trolley car. Pennsylvania Herritage Model's model should make all of us happy.

World's Greatest Hobby on Tour

Over 550,000 have attended!

The show visits each city only once every 5-10 years so don't miss it when it's in your area!



The model railroad industry is proud to announce the return of the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, a train show designed to showcase model railroading. The show is exciting for model railroaders and fun for the whole family. It features:

- Huge operating model railroads
- 300 booths of manufacturers and retailers
- Over 100 trains for kids to operate
- Demos, seminars, and new products
- Thomas riding train for kids
- and much much more!

Show Hours: Saturday 10:00am - 6:00pm
Sunday 10:00am - 5:00pm
2009 Admission: $10.00 Adults
Kids under 16 are FREE

For more information Contact:
World's Greatest Hobby on Tour
PO Box 11, Elmhurst, IL 60126
Phone: 630-279-5094
wghshow.com

Supporting Manufacturers
WALTHERS · KALMBACH PUBLISHING CO. · Athearn · KATO · ATLAS · MTH ELECTRIC TRAINS · Woodland Scenics

Dates & Locations

Seattle - Tacoma
November 21-22, 2009
Western Washington Fairgrounds
Hwy 512 & Meridian St South • Puyallup, WA

Washington D.C.
January 23 & 24, 2010
Dulles Expo Center
4368 Chantilly Shopping Center • Chantilly, VA

Long Beach
February 13-14, 2010
Long Beach Convention Center
300 Ocean Blvd • Long Beach, California

Denver
February 20 & 21, 2010
National Western Complex
4655 Humboldt St • Denver, Colorado

The Great Train Expo

GREAT TRAIN EXPO

CALIFORNIA
September 26 & 27, 2009
Santa Clara County Frgnds, San Jose
November 28 & 29, 2009
Alameda County Fairgrnds, Pleasanton
December 5 & 6, 2009
Ontario Convention Center, Ontario
December 12 & 13, 2009
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar
January 2 & 3, 2010
Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim
January 9 & 10, 2010
Cal Expo, Sacramento

COLORADO
November 7 & 8, 2009
National Western Complex, Denver

GEORGIA
November 21 & 22, 2009
North Atlanta Trade Center, Norcross

ILLINOIS
October 17 & 18, 2009
Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield
October 24 & 25, 2009
QCCA, Rock Island
November 28 & 29, 2009
Gateway Center, Collinsville

INDIANA
September 26 & 27, 2009
January 2 & 3, 2010
Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis

KENTUCKY
January 9 & 10, 2010
KY Int'l Convention Center, Louisville

LOUISIANA
October 3 & 4, 2009
Castine Center, Mandeville (N Orleans)

MICHIGAN
December 12 & 13, 2009
Rock Financial Showplace, Novi

OHIO
October 10 & 11, 2009
John S. Knight Center, Akron

OREGON
November 14 & 15, 2009
Portland Metro Expo Center, Portland

- Operating layouts on display
- 200-500 Tables
- Huge selection
- How-to hobby clinics
- Free admission for kids

Saturday & Sunday, 10am to 4pm
Adults $7, (good for both days) Kids Under 12 Free
PO Box 725, Oswego, IL 60543
Phone: 630-608-4988

GTExpo.com

Greenberg Train Shows ...since 1976

Timonium, MD
MD State Fairgrounds - Dec. 5 & 6, 2009

Wilmington, MA
Shriners Auditorium - Nov. 21 & 22, 2009

Edison, NJ
NJ Expo Center - Nov. 28 & 29, 2009

Middletown, NY
Orange Cnty. Fair - Oct. 31 & Nov. 1, 2009

Monroeville, PA *New Building!*
Monroeville Convention Center
November 14 & 15, 2009

Oaks, PA
Greater Philadelphia Expo Center
December 12 & 13, 2009

Fredericksburg, VA
Fredericksburg Expo Center
October 24 & 25, 2009

Richmond, VA *NEW!*
Richmond Raceway Complex
December 19 & 20, 2009

Chantilly, VA
Dulles Expo Center - Jan. 2 & 3, 2010

America's Best Train Show

Saturday & Sunday: 10:00am to 4:00pm
Admission: Adults - $7.00 (good for both days)
Kids 11 & Under Are FREE
Online: GreenbergShows.com
P.O. Box 34, Elmhurst, IL 60126
Ph. 630-279-4087 Fax 240-597-4482

Get Top Dollar by Selling Excess Pieces of Your Collection at the Shows! Selling Tables Are Still Available at Most Shows; Collectors and Individuals Welcome! Call for Details!

CHICAGO Great Midwest Train Show

World's LARGEST monthly train show
DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL
9:30 am to 3:00 pm - Adults $7 - Kids FREE!
★★ *In Five Buildings!!!* ★★

Selling Space is Available
Contact Us Today:
PO Box 34 • Elmhurst, IL 60126 • Phone: 630-290-1962

Discount coupon and show details online:
GreatMidwestTrainShow.com

Upcoming Show Dates:
Oct 11 • Nov 8 • Dec 13 • Jan 10
Feb 14 • Mar 14 • Apr 11 • May 2

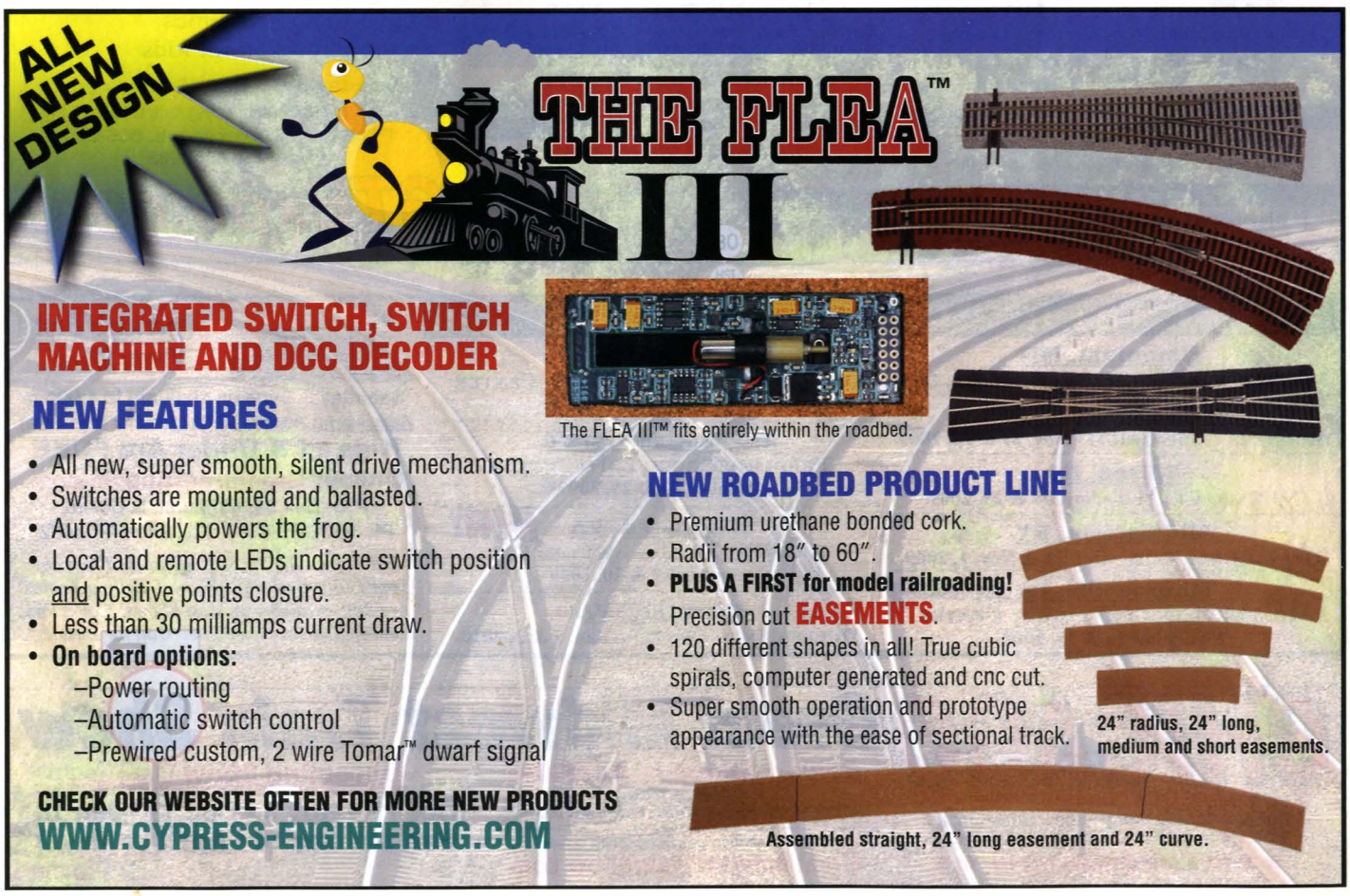
All new EMD FP7 and F7B locomotives from Intermountain

HO — Intermountain has released three new EMD FP7 and F7B locomotives, five WWII war emergency boxcar kits, one Bethlehem Car Works class PBM coach, three BCW Modern Baggage Express cars, and four ATSF early steel cabooses, along with an undecorated ATSF early steel caboose kit.

Three new EMD FP7 and F7B locomotives have been released. Richmond, Fredricksburg & Potomac (#49955 & #49555) is painted in a blue and gray scheme. The A-unit is available for roadnumbers 1201, 1202, and 1203, and the B-unit is available for numbers 1159 and 1160. Baltimore & Ohio (#49956 & #49556) is decorated in dark blue with a yellow stripe and lettering. A large "B&O" graces the sides of these locomotives. The A-unit is available for numbers 8006, 8011, and 8013, the B-unit is available for numbers 7519 and 7535. Pennsylvania (#49957 & #499557) is painted Tuscan red with five dulux gold stripes. InterMountain has produced all four A-unit numbers and both B-unit numbers of the prototypes. The numbers are: 9832, 9833, 9834, and 9835 for the A-unit, and 9832B, and 9834B for the B-unit. Each model comes fully assembled with wire handrails, etched metal grilles, cab interiors (on the FP7), and Kadee couplers. The smooth drive is available either as DCC-ready with the 8-pin NMRA compatible plug, or with QSI sound system installed that will work on DC or DCC. The A-units retail for $129.95 without sound, or $199.95 with sound, and the B-units retail for $94.95 without sound, or for $164.95 with sound.

Five WWII war emergency boxcar kits are now available. The first is undecorated

with a rectangular panel roof (#41070). The second is undecorated with a Viking roof (#41071). ATSF (#46071) has outside braced sides. This ATSF version has a composite side door. The car is painted mineral red with a black roof. The lettering is white, with the black and white circle cross Santa Fe herald. It is available for roadnumbers 129503, 129521, 129674, 129680, 129735, and 129799. Chicago & North Western (#46072) has the distinctive Viking roof. The car is painted boxcar red and the roof is gray. The lettering is white. It is available for roadnumbers 77422, 77476, 77510, 77638, 77694, and 77740. Nickel Plate Road (#46073) has the Superior side door. The car is boxcar red, with black ends and white lettering. It is available for numbers 8005, 8026, 8060, 8073, 8134, and 8189. The models represent the prototype 40-foot 6-inch inside height car, built from 1943 to 1944. The cars are equipped with metal


ALL NEW DESIGN
THE FLEA™ III
INTEGRATED SWITCH, SWITCH MACHINE AND DCC DECODER
NEW FEATURES
• All new, super smooth, silent drive mechanism.
• Switches are mounted and ballasted.
• Automatically powers the frog.
• Local and remote LEDs indicate switch position and positive points closure.
• Less than 30 milliamps current draw.
• On board options:
–Power routing
–Automatic switch control
–Prewired custom, 2 wire Tomar™ dwarf signal
The FLEA III™ fits entirely within the roadbed.
NEW ROADBED PRODUCT LINE
• Premium urethane bonded cork.
• Radii from 18" to 60".
• PLUS A FIRST for model railroading! Precision cut EASEMENTS.
• 120 different shapes in all! True cubic spirals, computer generated and cnc cut.
• Super smooth operation and prototype appearance with the ease of sectional track.
24" radius, 24" long, medium and short easements.
Assembled straight, 24" long easement and 24" curve.
CHECK OUR WEBSITE OFTEN FOR MORE NEW PRODUCTS
WWW.CYPRESS-ENGINEERING.COM

wheelsets and Kadee couplers. They retail for $29.95.

Bethlehem Car Works has released a class PBM coach. Jersey Central Lines (#BCW5311) has the clerestory roof. It is painted coach green with a black roof and underframe. The lettering is yellow. It is available for roadnumbers 983, 1031, and 1135. The car retails for $59.95.

Bethlehem Car Works has also released three Modern Express Cars for Erie. Erie (#BCW5400) is painted dark green with a black roof and underframe. The lettering is yellow. It is available for roadnumbers 201, 207, 211, and 216. Erie (#BCW5401) is painted 2-tone, dark and light green with a black roof and underframe. The lettering is yellow. It is available for numbers 205, 208, 212, and 219. Erie Lackawanna (#BCW5402) is painted maroon and gray, with a black roof and underframe. The lettering is maroon, and the striping is yellow. It is available for numbers 203, 209, 215, and 218. The cars are equipped with wire grab irons, metal wheelsets, and Kadee couplers. They retail for $59.95.

Four new ATSF early steel cabooses have been released with all new tooling. Original class 1650-1749 (#CCS1101) is decorated as delivered in mineral red with white lettering. The roof walk is black. It is available for roadnumbers 1651, 1693, 1709, and 1736. Class 1875-1978 (#CCS1103) is painted mineral red with white lettering. The roof walk is black. This version includes the distinctive yellow/orange Wig Wag signals attached to the ends of the cupola. It is available for numbers 1877, 1915, 1928, and 1964. Class 1750-1874 (#CCS1107) is painted mineral red with white grab irons and lettering, and is radio equipped. It is available for roadnumbers 1761-R, 1786-R, 1842-R, and 1862-R. C&S-Burlington Northern (#CCS1110) is decorated in the BN scheme: green sides, yellow ends, silver roof, and white lettering. It is available for roadnumber 10401. The cabooses have finely molded detail, etched metal antenna ground plane, wire handrails, metal wheelsets in the Bettendrof swing motion truck, and Kadee No. 78 scale-size couplers. The cabooses retail for $49.95 each.

An undecorated ATSF early steel caboose kit (#CCS1199) contains numerous optional parts; i.e. 36-inch and 42-inch high end railings, K and AB brakes, wood and steel tool cellars, and more. The model has finely molded details, etched metal details, wire handrails, and the Bettendorf swing motion truck. The kit includes plastic wheelsets and has been manufactured to accept Kadee No. 78 size couplers. It retails for $29.95.

Intermountain Railway Co., P.O. Box 839, Longmont, CO 80502-0839; 303-772-1901; Fax: 303-772-8534; E-mail: intermountain@intermountain-railway.com; www.intermountain-railway.com

N Scale HO Scale O Scale On30 Scale S Scale G Scale

THIS IS JUST A SMALL SAMPLE OF WHAT WE CARRY. CALL WITH STOCK NUMBERS. AMERICA'S LARGEST INTERNATIONAL MAIL ORDER DISCOUNT STORE.

N SCALE KATO #1372001 GG-1, GREEN or RED 5-STRIPE CALL FOR OUR PRICE NEW!

N SCALE BACHMANN #50551 0-6-0 SWITCHER W/TENDER Starting At $24.99 EA.

N SCALE ATLAS DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES ALL STYLES ON SALE SALE!

MODEL POWER N SCALE DIE-CAST #7400 4-6-2 PACIFIC #7570 2-8-2 MIKADO Assorted Roads SUPER SALE $49.99 Ea. List $149.99 EA.

N SCALE ATHEARN #11890 2-6-0 ENGINE & TENDER Starting At $59.99 EA. SALE!

N SCALE LIFE LIKE #7465 2-8-4 BERKSHIRE Starting At $89.99 EA. ASSORTED ROADS

BACHMANN HO #65502 AMTRAK E60CP DIESEL, DCC ON-BOARD $69.99 NEW!

BACHMANN HO #62101 UP EMD DD40AX, DCC ON-BOARD 74.99 NEW!

BACHMANN HO #81601 SPECTRUM USRA LIGHT 4-8-2 MOUNTAIN ASSORTED ROADS $109.99 EA. SUPER SALE!

HO SCALE ATHEARN #88661 UNION PACIFIC GAS TURBINE CALL for OUR Price

HO SCALE ATHEARN DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES ALL STYLES ON SALE SALE!

HO SCALE ATLAS #8402 GP-7 ....64.99 #9100 GP-38 ...64.99 #9119 GP-38 ...64.99 #20000215 GP-7 69.99 NEW #9189 GP-40 $85.99 Ea.

WALTHERS HO SPECIAL PASSENGER CAR SERIES WALTHERS
• METAL-PLATED FINISH AMTRAK SUPERLINERS
• MILWAUKEE HAIWATHA • GN EMPIRE BUILDER
• ATSF SUPER CHIEF • NYC 20TH CENTURY LIMITED HOT!
CALL WITH STOCK NUMBERS

LIFE LIKE HERITAGE PROTO 2000 HERITAGE SALE!
#30211 0-6-0 .....Starting At 99.99

PROTO 2000
#31863 GP-30 LOW-HOOD .SALE 59.99
#31861S GP-30 LOW-HOOD W/QUANTUM SND 159.99
#40152 GP-30 HI-HOOD 89.99
#40150S GP-30 HI-HOOD W/QUANTUM SND . 159.99

MTH HO #80-3114-1 4-8-4 GS-4 OR GS-6 $389.99 ea. SOUND SMOKE DIE-CAST

MTH HO #80-2001-1 SD-70 ACe/SD-70M HERITAGE FLEET $229.99 ea. ASSORTED ROADS NEW!

YOUR ONE STOP SOURCE FOR LARGE "G" SCALE

WE CARRY:
LGB • ARISTO-CRAFT • PIKO • MTH
BACHMANN • USA TRAINS • MRC
NOCH • BRAWA • LIONEL
WOODLAND SCENICS & MORE...

CALL US FIRST WITH THE STOCK NUMBERS FOR:
SETS • LOCOMOTIVES
PASSENGER CARS • FREIGHT CARS
BUILDINGS • ACCESSORIES
TRACK • POWER PACKS
SCENERY

GET EVEN BETTER PRICES THAN WHAT YOU SEE HERE!
SIGN UP FOR E-MAIL SALES & NEWS
ON OUR WEBSITE AND RECEIVE BY E-MAIL EXTRA DISCOUNTS, SPECIALS AND SUPER SALE ITEMS

THE PRODUCTS WE SELL ARE NOT TOYS AND ARE NOT INTENDED FOR USE BY CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 14. THESE PRODUCTS ARE MODEL RAILROAD EQUIPMENT & ACCESSORIES AND ARE INTENDED FOR USE BY ADULTS.

SEND MAIL ORDER TO:
TRAINWORLD®
751 MCDONALD AVE.
BROOKLYN, NY 11218
TRAINLAND®
293 SUNRISE HIGHWAY
LYNBROOK LONG ISLAND, NY 11563

MASTERCARD-VISA-DISCOVER-AMEX
NY residents add applicable sales tax
Minimum Order $25.00 plus shipping
UPS Shipping & Handling, Min. $9.95
Parcel Post, Canada & Overseas, Min. $24.95
For Larger Orders, Estimate Additional Shipping.
MONDAY - SATURDAY 10-6
WEB SITE www.trainworld.com ONLINE SHOPPING www.trainworldonline.com
E-MAIL orders@trainworld.com

Prices subject to change, limited quantities, all rights reserved. Not responsible for typographic errors. These prices are valid for Mail Order only.

FOR ORDERS ONLY:
CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-541-7010
For prices & Info Call: (718) 436-7072
10 DAY EXCHANGE POLICY MUST BE NEW!
15% RESTOCKING CHARGE ON ALL APPROVED RETURNS.
SHIPPING CHARGES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE!
24 HR. FAX ORDERS 1-718-972-8514

AMERICA'S LARGEST DISCOUNT TRAIN STORES
10/09F

New C420 locomotive from Atlas

N — Atlas will be releasing a C420 locomotive in new paint schemes. The model is a low-nose "Phase 2" model. Atlas states all Phase 2 versions will feature the low/vertical mounted engine air intake located ahead of the radiator area on the long hood. Early Phase 2 locomotives feature Phase 1-style walkways/sills with stanchions mounted into the top walkway deck (referred to as "Phase 2a" models). Later Phase 2 locomotives feature a revised configuration where the stanchions are mounted to the sides of the sill (referred to as "Phase 2b" models). Phase 2a production ran from December 1964 through September 1965. Phase 2b units were produced from December 1965 through the end of C420 locomotive production in August 1968.

The Atlas C420 features flat or "step" pilots used when appropriate, long hood with or without dynamic brake used when appropriate, 3,100 or 2,400 gallon fuel tank used when appropriate per roadname, separately-applied coupler cut levers, painted safety rails, dual flywheels, directional lighting, blackened metal wheels, Scale Speed motor, factory-installed AccuMate magnetic couplers, and a low nose headlight in low position used where appropriate per roadname.

The C420 Phase 2b low nose without nose light will be available in the following schemes: undecorated (#40 000 004 standard & #40 000 104 DCC); Apache Railway (#40 000 193, & #40 000 194 standard & #40 000 208, & #40 000 209 DCC) painted green and white and numbered for 82 and 84; and Erie Mining (#40 000 195, 40 000 196, & 40 000 197 standard & #40 000 210, #40 000 211, & 40 000 212 DCC) painted yellow and red, and numbered for 4218, 4219, and 7222.

The limited edition paint schemes include the following: Green Bay & Western (#40 000 198 standard & #40 000 213 DCC) painted red, black, and white, and numbered for 323; and Iowa Interstate (#40 000 199 standard & 40 000 214) painted red, black, and yellow, for 850.

The low nose with nose light is available for the following schemes: undecorated (#40 000 005 standard & #40 000 105 DCC); and Louisville & Nashville (#40 000 200, #40 000 201, #40 000 202 Standard & #40 000 215, & #40 000 216 DCC) painted in gray and yellow. The locomotives are numbered for 1306, 1312, and 1315.

The high nose locomotive is available undecorated (#40 000 006 standard & #40 000 106 DCC), and for Monon (#40 000 203, & #40 000 204 standard, and #40 000 217, & #40 000 218 DCC) painted black and gold. They are numbered for 501 and 502.

The C420 Phase 2a high nose locomotive is available undecorated (#40 000 003 standard & #40 000 103 DCC), and for Norfolk & Western (#40 000 205, #40 000 206, #40 000 207 standard, and #40 000 219, & #40 000 220 DCC) painted in black and gold, and are numbered for 413, 415, and 420

The standard locomotives retail for $119.95, limited editions retail for $124.95, decoder-equipped versions are $154.95, and decoder-equipped limited editions retail for $159.95

Atlas, 378 Florence Ave, Hillside, NJ 07205-1102; 908-687-0880; Fax: 908-687-8857; www.atlasrr.com

Ye Olde Huff N Puff

Manufacturers of Quality HO, HOn3, S, On3, O and On30 Gauge Wood Craftsman Kits and Structures

- ***Silver Streak Models & Parts***
- ***Main Line Models***
- ***Sugar Pine Structures***
- ***Eshleman Turnout Links***

$4.00 for catalog (Specify Gauge)
SASE for Narrow Gauge and S Listing
To Order:
P.O. Box 1103 • Lewistown, PA 17044
(717) 248-8935
Website: www.yeoldehuffnpuff.com

RR
Rivarossi
www.hornby-usa.com
Distributed by
HORNBY
HORNBY AMERICA
877-358-6405
www.hornbyamerica.com

UNION PACIFIC 4-8-8-4 BIG BOY 'WEATHERED'
Two versions: #HR2098 DCC Ready #4007 and #HR2099 DCC/Sound Equipped #4014
Details include metal handrails, 5 pole motor w/flywheel, operating headlight

New boxcar trio from Bluford

N — Bluford Shops has announced their next trio of N-scale boxcar runs. These cars have injection molded plastic bodies, etched metal details, operating knuckle couplers, accurately appearing trucks and cushion draft gear enclosures. The expected delivery is in late autumn of this year. The projected retail prices are $24.95 for single cars, and $49.90 for 2-packs, except where noted otherwise.

The first is a Union Pacific (#87091 single & #87092 2-pack) "automated rail way" quad door car. This batch of cars appeared on the UP in the summer of 1966 in this paint scheme. The shield includes the word "Railroad" which was standard for UP in the 60s. This batch also included the small version of the reporting marks. The "automated rail way" logo had evolved over the years with this version featuring a more playful lettering style, larger map, and "Cushioned Load" replacing "Cushion Ride." These cars were initially assigned for loading at a Chevy plant on the New York Central in Cleveland. Due to the particularly complex decoration on these cars, projected retail price for the single is $27.95, and $55.90 for the 2-pack.

The Central of Georgia (#86251 single & #86252 2-pack) is a double door boxcar. This batch of CoG cars was also delivered in the summer of '66 and also initially assigned for loading in Cleveland, although at a Ford's Walton Hills plant. The 1,700

plus mile Central of Georgia blanketed much of Georgia and Alabama with branches to Tennessee and Florida. In the early 60s, Southern gained control of the CoG and their influence spread into the lettering styles used on CoG's 8,000 plus car fleet.

The Norfolk & Western car (#86241 single & #86242 2-pack) is a double door boxcar. Norfolk & Western's 86-foot boxcar fleet was very large, reflecting the importance of the auto business to predecessor Wabash whom N&W leased in 1964. This large batch was delivered in the spring of 1965 in this paint scheme. They were initially assigned for loading on the Chicago Heights Terminal & Transfer (now part of UP). Note that N&W used an alternate version of the "hamburger logo" on their auto parts cars with a taller "N&W."

Bluford Shops, LLC, P.O. Box 152, Bluford, IL 62814; 618-822-6833; Fax:618-822-6833; E-mail: blufordshops@aol.com; www.bluford-shops.com

Custom Signal Systems
Layout Automation, Animation, Routing, Lighting, and Train Control.
Control Systems Programmed
to your specifications. Computer control with or without a computer.
Clubs or Private Layouts — **Free Estimates**
www.oaktreesystems.com

Water Tank

McCabe Lumber Company water tanks were open-top, 20,000 gallon tanks. The standard gauge version of the tank is shown; narrow gauge version is a scale 30" shorter in bent height.

The kit consists of laser-cut wood with plastic & metal detail castings, and see-thru 'water.'

#27490	HO	$ 49.95
#27489	HOn3	$ 49.95
#17490	O	$ 99.95
#17489	On3/30	$ 99.95

See our web site for the entire McCabe logging series in HO, S and O scales!

B.T.S. *Better Than Scratch!*
RR 1 Box 141A
Belington, WV 26250
www.btsrr.com
Phone: 304-823-3729
Shipping $5.00 / order in the U.S.

CUSTOM BUILT & PAINTED G SCALE TRAINS
CUSTOM DECALS AND VINYL LETTERING • ALL SCALES

SHAWMUT CAR SHOPS
307 NORTH MICHAEL STREET
ST. MARYS, PA 15857
814-834-9455
www.shawmutcarshops.com
27 PAGE CATALOG $5.00
Refundable on orders of $50 or more

ROGUE VALLEY RAILROAD SHOW
MEDFORD 32 OREGON

RAILROAD SHOW
SATURDAY November 28 10 AM - 5 PM
SUNDAY November 29 11 AM - 4 PM
MEDFORD ARMORY
1701 S Pacific Highway, Medford, OR
Model Railroad Displays ✦ Exhibits
Swap Meet ✦ Door Prizes ✦ Raffles
Purpose: Educating the Public on Railroading Safety, History, and the Joy of Railroad Hobbies.
Proceeds to Benefit the Medford Railroad Park
ADULT — $5 ✦ SENIOR — $4
14 AND UNDER FREE WITH ADULT!

AML

Distributed in Canada by

Canada G Scale Trains

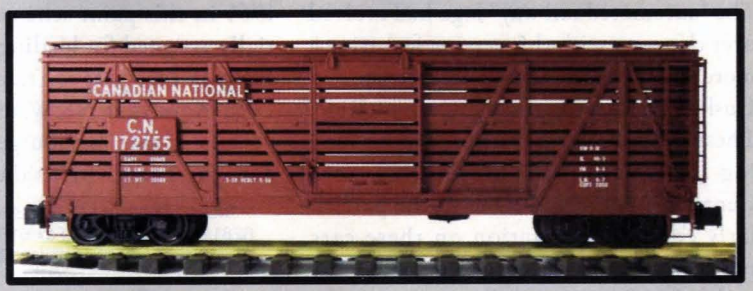
www.canadagscaletrains.com

MUSEUM QUALITY 1:29 SCALE

Coming Soon Dockside
0-4-0 live steam undec.G722-01

0-6-0 live Steam Undecorated and CN
G731-01 Undecorated G731-07 CDN. NAT.
(ALSO AVAILABLE IN ELECTRIC)

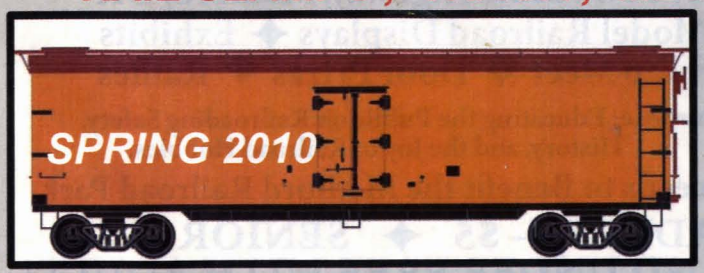
G701-01 K4 4-6-2 Pacific
Live Steam (Butane fired)



G424XX -40' STOCK CAR IN STOCK
UNDEC.,RIO,ATSF,UP,GN,CNR,CP,
SP,WP

G401-XX Double Door 40' Box Car
COTTON BLT,SF,BN,UP,SP,NP,CNR,CP

RAIL CLAMPS , TRACK , METAL WHEELS

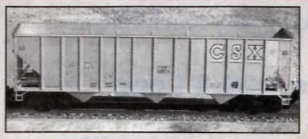


40FT WOODSIDE REEFER
REBUILT
1:29 Scale, 45mm Gauge,
G426-XX CP , CN

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CANADIAN AML DEALER TO ORDER

RLD Hobbies, LLC | *Garden Scale Trains*

We carry USA Trains, Aristo Craft, Bachmann, Accucraft, American Mainline(AML), AMS, Kadee, Bridgewerks, Phoenix Sound, Hartland Locomotive Works, LGB, Broadway Limited, Splitjaw Railclamps and Airwire.



LIMITED RUN
Aristo Craft
CSX 3-bay coal hopper
(plastic wheels)
$64.89 ea
(steel wheels)
6 road numbers
$74.89 ea
Now in Stock!

LIMITED RUN
Aristo Craft
Burlington Northern GP40
Road numbers:
#3003, #3017, #3022, #3039
$297.89 ea
Now in Stock!

LIMITED RUN
USA TRAINS
ROCK ISLAND GP7
2 Road Numbers
$219.89 ea or
2 for $424.89
Delivery 2010

LIMITED RUN
Aristo Craft
ILLINOIS CENTRAL
2-bay
4 Road Numbers
$57.89 ea or
4 for $224.89
Now in stock

LIMITED RUN
Aristo Craft
GREAT NORTHERN
2-bay
4 Road Numbers
$57.89 ea or
4 for $224.89
Now in stock

LIMITED RUN
Aristo Craft
MILWAUKEE ROAD
2-bay
4 Road Numbers
$57.89 ea or
4 for $224.89
Now in stock

LIMITED RUN
USA TRAINS
GOLDEN WEST
SERVICE
4-bay hopper
2 Road Numbers
$94.89 ea
Now in Stock!

LIMITED RUN
USA TRAINS
KANSAS CITY
SOUTHERN
4-bay hopper
4 Road Numbers
$94.89 ea
Now in Stock!

Aristo Craft Railbender
ART11290
$161.89ea

Visit us at the Gateway Garden RR Meet
Carlyle, IL
Feb 13 & 14 2010

Aristo Craft Locomotives

ART80XXX	C-16s	$359.89ea
ART226XX	Centercabs	$183.89ea
ART230XX	Dash-9s	$352.89ea
ART212XX	Doodlebugs	$252.89ea
ART23600	E-8s (no chrome)	$336.89ea
ART227XX	Eggliners	$77.89ea
	(russian jewel)	$93.89ea
ART235XX	GP40s	$297.89ea
ART233XX	PCC Trolleys	$204.89ea
ART222XX	RS3s	$241.89ea
ART224XX	SD45s	$336.89ea
ART221XX	U25Bs	$241.89ea

Rolling Stock

ART414XX	100 ton coal hoppers	$69.89ea
ART418XX	2-bay coal hoppers	$57.89ea
ART412XX	2-bay covered hoppers	$69.89ea
ART460XX	40' box cars	$64.89ea
ART461XX	40' dd box cars	$64.89ea
ART452XX	40' pd box cars	$64.89ea
ART462XX	40' refer cars	$64.89ea
ART500XX	53' evans box cars	$68.89ea
ART421XX	Steel Cabooses	$94.89ea
ART464XX	Flat Cars	$76.89ea
ART464XX	Bulk hd flat cars	$81.89ea
ART410XX	Gondolas	$54.89ea
ART413XX	single dome tank cars	$58.89ea
ART416XX	3 dome tank cars	$53.89ea
ART467XX	Snow plows	$119.89ea
ART461XX	Stock Cars	$64.89ea
ART469XX	Track cleaning cars	$59.89ea

Crest Electronics

55460	10 amp supply	$115.89ea
55465	15 amp supply	$127.89ea
55468	15 amp elite supply	$149.89ea
55470	walk around TE	$171.89ea
55471	walk around receiver	$115.89ea
55491	onboard te receiver	$124.89ea
55492	onboard te transmitter & rec	$196.89ea
55610	lithium-ion battery	$85.89ea
55611	y adapter	$5.89ea
55620	li-on battery charger	$27.89ea
CRE55653	NIMH BATTERY PK 2.8 A 19V	$53.89ea
CRE55661	CHARGER FOR NICAD&NMH 21V	$25.89ea
CRE57000	TRAIN ENGINEER 2.4 GHZ	$209.89ea
CRE57001	TRAIN ENGINEER 2.4 GHZ TX	$147.89ea
CRE57002	TRAIN ENG. 2.4 GHZ RX	$ 81.89ea
CRE57003	TRAIN ENG 2.4 GHZ RX (6PK)	$409.89ea
CRE57072	G SMOKE BOARD 6 PACK	$71.89ea
CRE57073	G SMOKE BOARD	$15.89ea

Brass Track

11060	24" str (12pcs)	30060	$131.89ea
11099	60" str (12pcs)	30195	$345.89ea
11600	8ft curve (16pcs)	30115	$145.89ea
11800	10ft curve (12pcs)	30120	$179.89ea
	wide LH switch	30380	$46.89ea
	wide RH switch	30370	$46.89ea
	#6 LH switch	30340	$106.89ea
	#6 RH switch	30330	$106.89ea

Aluminum Track

ART12101	STRAIGHT 12" (12pcs)	$29.89ea
ART12105	Rail Only 8ft (12pcs)	$144.89ea
ART12190	Straight 6ft Flex (12pcs)	$173.89ea
ART12111	Curve 4ft (12pcs)	$29.89ea
ART12181	Curve 10ft (12pcs)	$107.89ea
ART12175	RH Wide Switch	$43.89ea
ART12176	LH Wide Switch	$43.89ea
ART12161	30 Deg Crossing	$23.89ea
ART12162	90 Deg Crossing	$23.89ea

Service is what we sell • Secure Online Ordering

Business Hours M - F 9:00 am - 5:30pm

Toll free (877) 753-4629 • www.RLDHobbies.com • RLDHobbies@yahoo.com

330 Industrial Drive • Rt 4 Box 144 • Albion, IL 62806

REVIEW **Fn3 (1:20.3)**

Rio Grande "Long" Caboose is a BIG release

Review and Photos by John Sipple

Denver & Rio Grande long caboose, MSRP: $275.00

Bachmann Industries
1400 E. Erie Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19124-5698
215-533-1600 • Fax: 215-744-4699
www.bachmanntrains.com

1:20.3 scale figures, each MSRP: $12.00

RailRoad Avenue Models
Box 550
Willits, CA 95490
707-459-2770
www.railroadavenue.com

UNTIL very recently, every railroad needed cabooses, and Rio Grande was no different. Given a thousand names, the shack on the end of a freight train was often a humble home for train crews. Most featured a desk for the conductor to do the train's paperwork, but they usually offered toilet facilities, a sink and stove that passed for a kitchen, perhaps a bunk or two on which a fellow could catch a nap, and some extension where a watchful brakeman could keep an eye out for "stinkers," as they called burning brake bearings.

Denver & Rio Grande constructed a number of short, four-wheel "bobber" cabooses with a length of about 16 feet, adequate but no more than that. The first of these entered service in 1871 and most were out-of-work by 1903. Rio Grande also built their own cabooses, often out of surplus rail equipment sitting around the shops. From 1885 to 1890, they built 16 shorties at 17 feet long. A few of them survived into the modern day. Then the shops took to cutting up old boxcars and making them into 26-foot cabooses, long compared to the others, hence the nickname for them. The first of these appeared in 1900. The cupola was moved to one end to offer better utility of interior space. Six were constructed this way and five more were created between 1920 and 1923 by rebuilding older cabooses. The results looked much the same.

The most notably odd feature of these cabooses was the location of the trucks. The bolster was very close to the end wall at each end of the car, and so the trucks extended to where part of the truck stuck out under the end platform. It's been said this started with the boxcar, a 30-foot long car that was cut down to 26 feet by cutting off the ends, with the underframe and trucks left untouched. The last group of five retained their original caboose numbers and were a foot shorter. Our sample, Number 503, is claimed by some historians to have been converted to a long caboose around 1912.

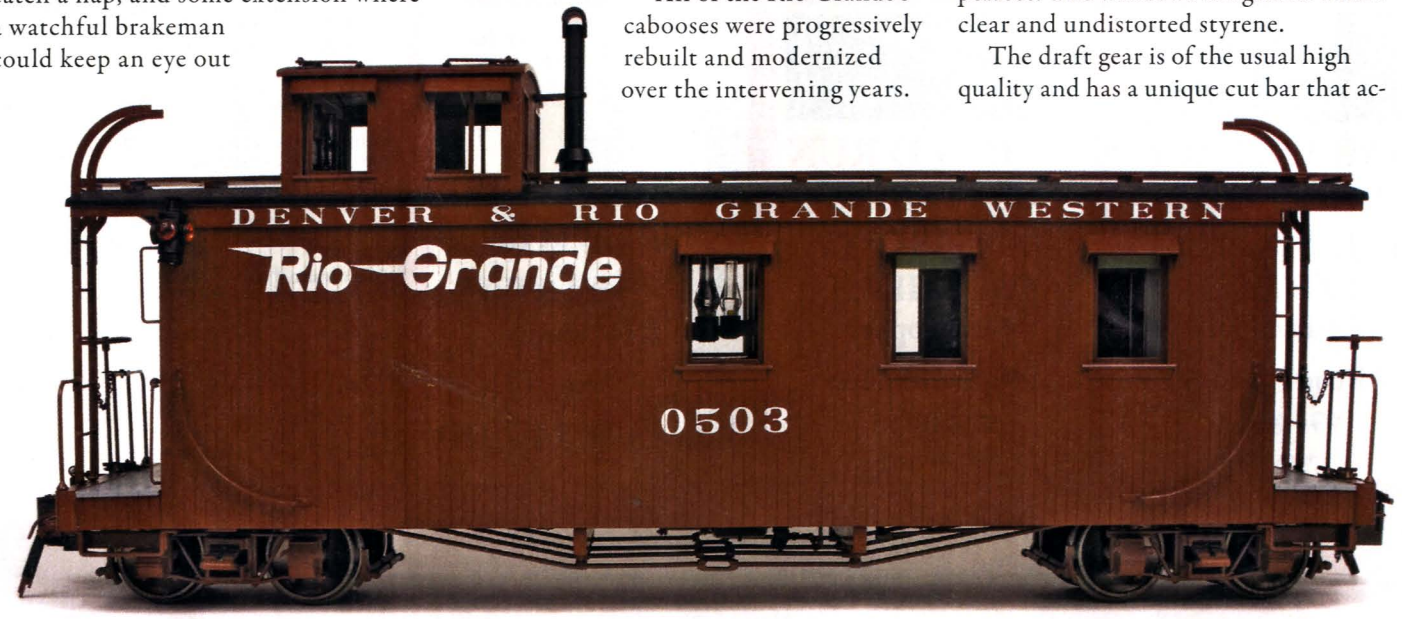
All of the Rio Grande's cabooses were progressively rebuilt and modernized over the intervening years. The lettering was altered to add "Denver & Rio Grande Western" and various logos and lettering styles until the late fifties, when the entire narrow gauge fleet was mostly mothballed. The hook-hoop ladders were added during that time, and number 503 survives today on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, our sample looking very much like it.

Bachmann's 1:20.3 Long Caboose

No point in painting up any of these for eastern railroads; the Rio Grande long caboose was as distinctive as anything in railroading. H. Lee Riley and his crew at Bachmann have really done this model up in style! Because there are several of these cabooses still in existence today, research and a commitment to getting it right have given us a museum-quality model. The level of detail is almost breathtaking, and the rivet counters will be busy for a month of Sundays, because the more they seek, the more they'll find.

The paint and marker light detail are typical of the early to mid fifties. As the cars currently exist, they have handrails and ladders painted white and no marker lamps, though the holders are still there. Our sample features the boxcar red handrails and ladders, and the lamps are mounted on the cupola end. Also, all the windows are in service on the model while some of the modern-day survivors have some windows paneled off. Paint and decoration on our sample is just perfect. The windows are glazed with a clear and undistorted styrene.

The draft gear is of the usual high quality and has a unique cut bar that ac-



Seen straight from the side, Number 503 shows a heritage that might either be built from a cut-down boxcar or else produced with parts left over from them. The hook-hoop ladders were added in the 1950s. Without a generator, kerosene lighting would have persisted.

Rio Grande cabooses had their cupolas centered, but experience showed it was hard to get adequate service space with that arrangement. The long cabooses moved the Peep Show to the back but only put the lamps on the B end.

This dramatic view would be the sight a kid would face as he approached up the roadbed. The detail around the draft gear is superb! Crewmen had to hop to get a foot into the box stirrup, easy enough on a warm, summer day, but it could get dicey on a cold, winter night!

tually works! The brake wheel at each end also has the rachet pawl and looks for all the world as though it might actually be operable. Even the trainline hose is made of rubber so its glad hand hangs down authoritatively. While the couplers could easily be converted to Kadees, in this case, I'm not going to do it. The couplers will work with Kadees, though not with coupler magnets, and I don't use any magnets on the Pine Belt anyway. A small clip-collar holds the coupler from swinging left or right, much as the prototype would be. If you remove the clip, the coupler swings and the cut bar is designed to work with this swing. Very clever!

The truss-rod and truck side frame detail are nothing short of exquisite and all of the air brake plumbing is there. Although generally barred from modern exchange freight, the caboose leaf-springed arch bar trucks still remain in service on the surviving long cabooses. The underside might want a bit of dirt and weathering to be more authentic, but that's a choice for the end purchaser. As it is, I'd display it on a mirror so visitors can see the bottom, too.

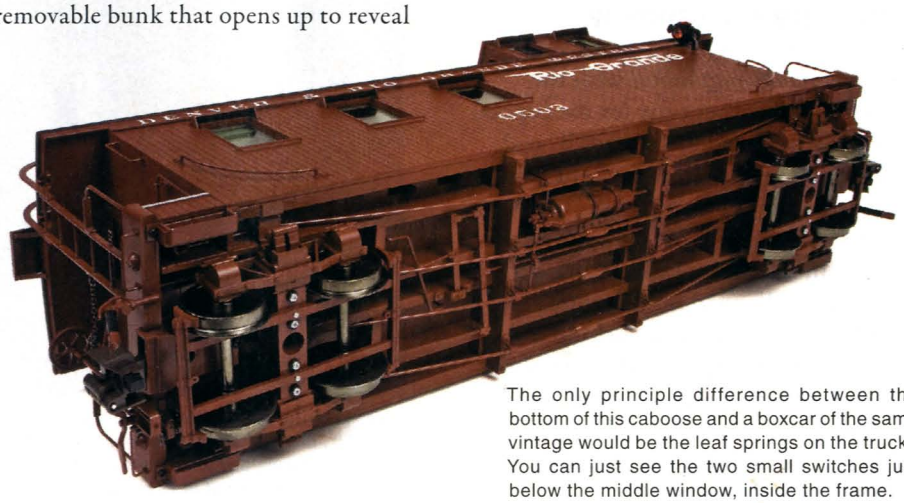
Bachmann could have delivered all this exterior wonder and leave the interior an empty box, but they didn't. Instead, one of the first things you notice are the tall chimney lamps on both sides of the car, a lamp design that produced considerably more light than ordinary railroad lanterns. The interior has all of its standard furnishings, including the cabinets, bunks, and seats. The end doors swing open so grandkids can view the inside, but the real fun begins when you place this caboose on powered track.

The marker lights light up, as will those tall lamps inside, and the effect is magical, especially at night. I found it very interesting there were instructions included on how to install a decoder! Yep, you heard me. Then there are directions on how to remove the roof so you can get into the decoder area, pull the dummy plug, and stick in a decoder. I just had to make the conversion and inserted a standard Bachmann decoder from an HO locomotive. Before reinstalling the roof, I tried it out. Because these decoders also work on DC power, you could switch to a DC layout and the lights would be on all the time.

There are two switches on the underneath side of the car. One of them controls your power source and selects between "battery" and "DC/DCC," with an off position in the middle. There is a removable bunk that opens up to reveal a battery compartment for two double-A (AA) batteries of the alkaline type or other non-rechargeable batteries. The "battery" position then uses the batteries to light the lamps. You'll have to switch them off when you're not running them.

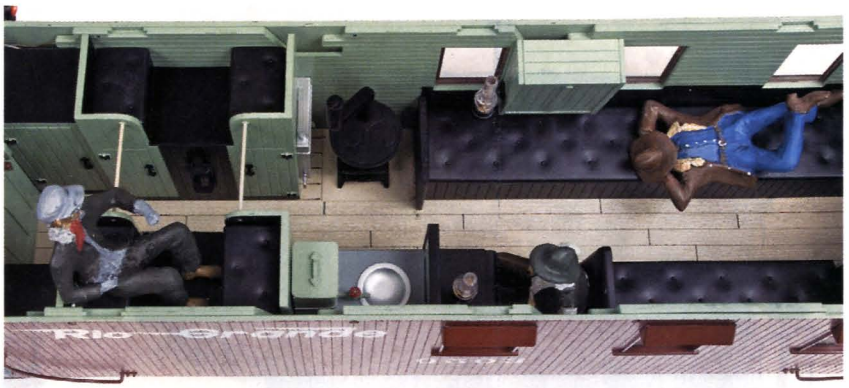
The other switch selects between marker, interior lamps, or both. I, of course, turned it to "both" and began my testing. I changed the address of the decoder to [503] and when I selected that address, the [0] button turns the lights on and off. Function [1] controls dimming of the lamps. Four LEDs add up to around 80 mA current draw, so you should select a decoder that can handle that much draw on a single function. I powered the track with DC and found the current was passed through the decoder and into the lights.

For all of this, I think the average garden railroader, whether they run DC or DCC, will be content to not have a

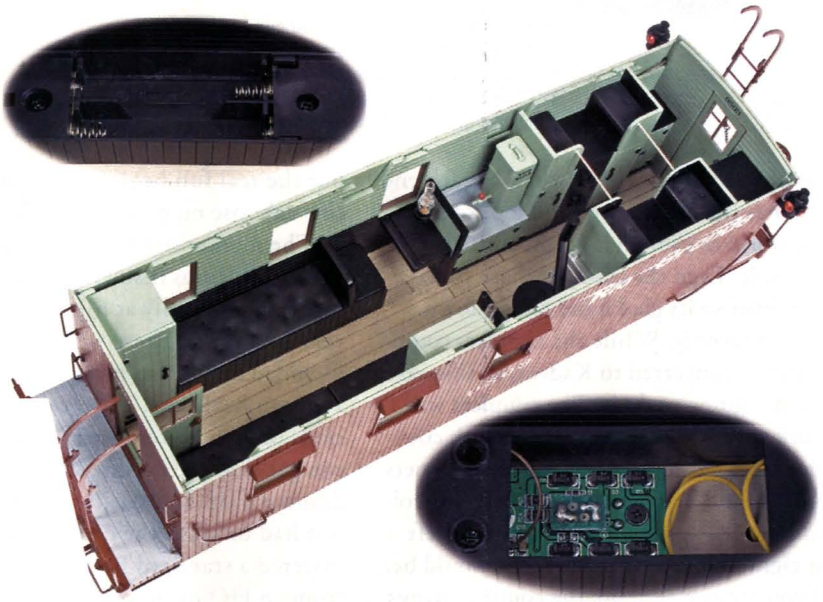


The only principle difference between the bottom of this caboose and a boxcar of the same vintage would be the leaf springs on the trucks. You can just see the two small switches just below the middle window, inside the frame.

This shot serves to remind the buyer that the smoke jack represents the extreme height while the marker lamps are the extreme width. For your first trip or two around your layout, take it dead slow until you're sure everything clears.



This interior view has been peopled with three figures from the Railroad Avenue Models collection. They are sold separately, and if you were going to run the caboose with them in it, you'd have to glue them into their seats. The conductor would have to be removable if you wanted access to the battery compartment.



This interior view shows the wealth of detail inside this model. The upper inset is the battery compartment, under a cover made from the conductor's seat and the bunk behind, opened by sliding the seat toward the desk. The bunk closest to the door on the other side of the aisle lifts to reveal the power board and the DCC dummy plug, as shown in the lower inset.

decoder in the caboose. The battery/RC guys will be delighted because they don't have juice in their tracks, that being their whole point. So a pair of penlight batteries from time to time is a small price to pay.

The other magic of removing the roof is to enjoy the interior detail. You can also add figures, perhaps one up in the cupola, one reclining on the bunk, and one at the desk. Thanks to the lighting, you'll be able to enjoy them even when the roof is restored to its place.

Operating the crummy

Thanks to the marker lights, you'll probably like things better with the "peep show" (another term for the cupola) to the rear. That would be the "B" end of the car, anyway. Short daylight moves might find the "castle" to the front, but night moves were worth the extra effort to get it in the back. With the cab being made of all wood in the prototype, a pusher couldn't come up behind it. Instead, they'd drop the cab short of the switch for the helper, pull ahead, and let the helper come out of its siding, back up to get the caboose, and then pull forward to push the train.

Here is a detail worth noting. The metal box to the left of the stove is actually a water tank that is heated by convection from the nearby stove. The spigot on the bottom would let you tap off a cup or a pan of hot water. Quite often, stoves in such tight quarters would be surrounded by galvanized sheet metal lagged out from the wall a couple of inches, all to prevent scorched walls!

I worried the power pickup would bind the wheels, but I found they rolled very well. Instead of the classic LGB-type wheel wipers, these seem to be mounted into the bearings and the wheels turn freely. A new half-axle design supplies the electrical isolation between sides. The engineers from Bachmann sure are a creative bunch!

Finally, we have to grapple with clearances. Rather than pick on the car, we need to understand that, while narrow gauge railroads didn't usually require of themselves the same Plate C clearances the standard gauge world imposed upon themselves, it's still a good standard to use. The 15 foot, 6 inch vertical clearance above the railheads works out to 186 inches, divided by 20.3, equals 9.16 inches or round to 9-1/4. The 10 foot, 8 inch width calculates to 128 inches divided by 20.3 comes to 6.31 inches or give it 6-1/2 to be on the safe side. Plate C specifies clearance based on long cars around tight curves, but that's hugely more complicated, and so a slow run around the layout is certainly advised.

With all this in mind, I checked the car and my own current clearances. The top of the smoke stack on the caboose is its highest point above the railheads at about 8.5 inches. The max width across the marker lights is around 5.5 inches. My own layout, the Oregon Pine Belt Railway, has a tunnel that will pass 8-3/4 inches high and 7 inches wide, more than enough, but not by a lot. The bridge over the cut clears about 9 inches over the railheads and offers more than 9 inches in width. So this caboose offered no problem here. I leave it for you to check your own layout or suffer a whacked stack or a damped lamp.

At the end of the train

Model railroaders don't face labor troubles as a result of injuries suffered by workers in cabooses, so we can keep them on the ends of our trains forever! This is quite a caboose to use for the end of a train, too. Not only is it museum perfect on the outside, you want to display it with the roof off because it's just as good inside. A model like this doesn't come along very often, and like most products from China, it was built in a batch, so unless this thing sells out and they order another batch, I'd say you'd better jump on this — now!

Fine Quality Brass Models Since 1999

RY

Please write or call:
Rich Yoder Models
7 Edgedale Court
Wyomissing, PA
19610-1913
Phone 610-678-2834
(after 6 p.m. EST until 10 p.m.)

Engines 14 & 15 factory painted black, DCC and sound ready. $2,995

1:20.3 Scale
East Broad Top
Mikado & Triple Hoppers
in stock now!

EBT hopper cars painted-unlettered or factory finished.
35 ton cars $425
or 3 for $1,200
40 ton cars $445

40 ton car shown.

www.richyodermodels.com

A Complete Line of G scale
DECK GIRDER BRIDGES, CATWALKS, AND PIERS.
www.gardenmetalmodels.com

Garden Metal Models Inc.
P.O. Box 155 Sykesville, MD 21784 (410)549-3139 9am-5pm e.s.t.

AMHERST RAILWAY SOCIETY
RAILROAD HOBBY SHOW

January 30 & 31, 2010
Eastern States Exposition
1305 Memorial Avenue
West Springfield, MA 01089

Better Living Center ~ Young Building
Stroh Building ~ Mallary Complex

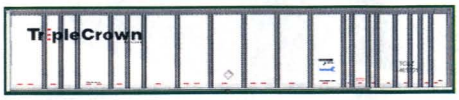
Our Railroad Hobby Show Features:
• more than 35 operating layouts.
• G, O, S, HO, N & Z Scale.
• manufacturers, displays, model dealers, booksellers, railroadiana, clinics, live steam.
• historical societies and railroad industry representatives.

Saturday 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
Daily Admission $10.00
Children 15 and under FREE when accompanied by an adult.
Tickets on Sale 1 hour before show opens

Visit us at: www.AmherstRail.org

New additions to Bowser's Executive Line

HO — Bowser is releasing new additions to their Executive Line of rollingstock. Available in the line are 53-foot Roadrailers, Trinity 53-foot Spine Cars, Century ALCo C-630s, EMD FT A&B diesels, and San Francisco "F Line" PCC Streetcars.



New 53-foot Roadrailers have been released for the following roadnames: Platewall (#40524, #40525, #40526, & #40527) is available in the Triple Crown medium logo scheme for roadnumbers 463001, 463026, 463054, and 463068; Platewall (#40528, #40529, #40530 & #40531) with the Triple Crown large logo for roadnumbers 461554, 461617, 461625, and 461654; Platewall (#40532, & #40533) in the Triple Crown small logo 461767, and 461789; Duraplate (#40534, #40535, & #40536) painted in CN gray for roadnumbers 532025, 532037, and 532043; Reefer Railer (#40537, #40538, & #40539) decorated in the BNSF Ice Cold Express scheme for numbers 530062, 530065, and 530083; the final roadname is the

Duraplate Triple Crown Wabash 10,000th Trailer (#40540) for roadnumber 364113. The roadrailers are equipped with pad printed ends, sides, mud flaps, and silver roofs, and are due in Nov 2009. Pricing was not finalized at press time.

New Trinity 53-foot spine cars will be available in sets of three for RAF33 and sets of five for RAF53C class cars.

The Trinity RAF33 will be available for roadnumbers 355001 (#40541), 355023 (#40542), 355115 (#40543), 355137 (#40544), and 355169 (#40545) for TTAX Road. The Trinity RAF53C will be available for roadnumbers 555007 (#40546), 555041 (#40547), and 555135 (#40548) for TTAX Road.

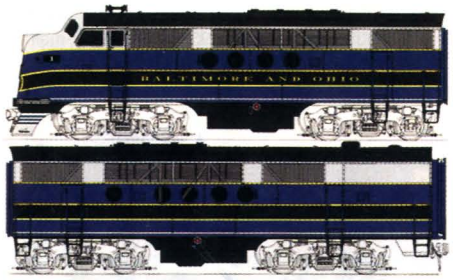
The cars will be ready to run and fully detailed with air hoses, diecast frame, etched walkways, brake piping, metal wheels with RP25 flanges, and knuckle couplers. The cars are due early 2010. A set of three spine cars will retail for $89.955, and a set of five will retail for $149.95.

The Century ALCo C-630 will be available this winter with revised tooling and is being offered in sound and non-sound versions for the following: Reading (#691-23391, #691-23392, #691-23393 & #691-23394) for roadnumbers #5308, #5310, #5308 (sound), #5310 (sound) with Hi-Ad trucks; C&O (#691-23395, #691-23396, #691-23397 & #691-23398) available for roadnumbers #2101, #2103, #2101 (sound), #2103 (sound), and they feature Hi-Ad trucks; CR (#691-23399, #691-23400, #691-23401 & #691-23402) for roadnumbers #6761 with Hi-Ad trucks, #6776 Tri-Mount trucks, #6761 (sound) and Hi-Ad trucks, and #6776 with sound and Tri-Mount trucks; PRR (#691-23403, #691-23404, #691-23405 & #691-23406) for numbers 6322, 6325, 6322 (sound), and 6325 (sound), they come with Tri-Mount trucks; and UP (#691-23407, #691-23408, #691-23409 & #691-23410) for numbers 2901, 2907, 2901 (sound), and 2907 (sound),

ARISTO CRAFT TRAINS
RDC-3 LOCOMOTIVE
1/29 SCALE
G
45 mm
ROADNAMES: Great Northern, Canadian National, Boston & Maine, Chicago and North Western, Amtrak, New York Central, Long Island, New Haven, Santa Fe, Pennsylvania Reading Seashore
ART22850 RDC-3 LOCOMOTIVE FEATURES: 1/29 scale • Dual-powered trucks • Made from extruded aluminum • Super-bright LEDs • Full interior • Train Engineer Revolution/DCC sockets• Sound-ready • Prototypical paint schemes and detailing
Come see the video @
LSOL.com/aristocraft
ARISTO-CRAFT TRAINS
698 S. 21st Street, Irvington, NJ 07111-4109
Phone: 973-351-9800 Fax: 973-351-9700
Visit us online at http://www.aristocraft.com
ARISTO CRAFT TRAINS

they're available with Tri-Mount trucks.

The locomotives are ready to run and Fully Detailed. They feature MU hoses, air hoses, brass windshield wipers, operating headlight, window glass, can motor, flywheels, nickel silver wheels with RP25 flanges, knuckle couplers, and are DCC-ready. Handrails are installed. There's power in both A- & B-units. Sound units are installed in both A & B. The DC version will retail for $169.95, and the SoundTraxx sound version will retail for $269.95. The expected delivery is winter of 2009.



EMD FT A and B diesels will be released for the following roadnames: B&O "As-Delivered" (#691-23411, #691-23412, #691-23413 & #691-23414) for roadnumbers 1 and 6 with and without sound; EMC Demo (#691-23415 & #691-23416) for roadnumber 103 with and without sound; ATSF "Catwisker" (#691-23417, #691-23418, #691-23419 & #691-23420) for roadnumbers 117 and 104 with and without sound; DL&W "Passenger" (#691-23421, #691-23422, #691-23423 & #691-23424) for numbers 654 and 651 with and without sound; and WP "As Delivered" (#691-23425, #691-23426, #691-23427 & #691-23428) for numbers #903 and #906 with and without sound, this Western Pacific Loco is available only from Hobbytyme.

The diesels will be ready to run and fully detailed. They will feature MU hoses, air hoses, brass windshield wipers, operating headlight, window glass, can motor, flywheels, nickel silver wheels with RP25 flanges, knuckle couplers, and are DCC-ready. Handrails are installed. There will be power in both A- and B-units. Sound units will be installed in both A & B. The DC version will retail for $299.99 and the Soundtraxx Sound version will retail for $459.95. The delivery is to be expected in winter of 2009.

The San Francisco "F Line" PCC Streetcars will be released with new injection molded plastic bodies. They will be available in the following paint schemes: San Francisco (#12550), Muni in the original "wing" style for number 1050; Chicago Transit Authority (#12558) for number 1058; Baltimore Transit Company (#12563) for number 1063; and Boston Elevated Railway (#12559) for number 1059. The street cars will be ready to run with new injection molded plastic bodies, window glass, dummy roof poles, operating headlights, and accurate painting and decorating. They will be powered with Bowser can motor drive with flywheel, and are due Winter 2009 for $124.95 each.

Bowser Manufacturing Co. Inc., P.O. Box 322, Montoursville, PA 17754-0322; 570-368-2379; Fax: 570-368-5046; E-mail: bowser@bowser-trains.com; www.bowser-trains.com

TRAINPLAYER
by
ARMCHAIR MODEL RAILROADING
Draw your layout, add trains and run!
Choose from hundreds of operating layouts
New! Add trees, structures, and scenery
Prices from $29.95. For PC and Mac.
FULL
"I've got every CAD system and railroad simulator...TrainPlayer is the one I use"
TRY IT FREE
www.trainplayer.com

NYC gondola and Pennsy XG/XH truss rod boxcars available from Westerfield

HO — Westerfield has released a USRA-style New York Central mill gondola.

The cloned gondola was built in 1923 by NYC with corrugated drop ends, and in 1927 with dreadnaught ends. It is available for P&LE/PMcK&Y (#8152) with corrugated ends, and for NYC/P&LE (#8153) with dreadnaught ends. The gondolas retail for $33.00 each.

Also available are kits for the Pennsylvania railroad classes XG and XH truss rod boxcars. The boxcars are decorated for Canada Southern Line (#11703), Midland Line (#11704), a produce car (#11705), and a ventilated car (#11706). These cars feature the original lettering. They are also available in post-1905 lettering for the following: Canada Southern Line (#11713), Midland Line (#11714), Produce (#11715), and Ventilated (#11716). The truss rod boxcars retail for $34.00 each.

The models are urethane craftsman kits with proprietary decals, and come without trucks and couplers.

Westerfield, 53 River Lane, Crossville, TN 38555-7868; 931-484-7233; Fax: 931-456-4122; E-mail: westerfield@charter.net; www.westerfield.biz

New Missouri Pacific drover caboose kits

HO — The Missouri Pacific Historical Society has commissioned two Missouri Pacific Drover Caboose kits (#883M.P. & #884M.P.) from American Model Buildeers. The kits are currently available exclusively from the Historical Society.

Each AMB kit consists of: custom laser-scribed sides laser-cut wood with tab & slot construction; peel & stick window and door assembly with color window shades; resin steps with laser-cut sills and end railings plus hand grab bending jig; laser-cut ladders and brake wheel; and AMB white metals smoke jack. Special MPHS additions include: Tichy brake detail parts (KC or AB as appropriate) and custom decals specifically designed for the Drover caboose. Paint, glue, trucks, and couplers are not included.

The kit is being offered to non-members for $64.95, or for $55.25 for current members of the Historical Society. According

to the MPHS correct trucks are made by Tahoe Model Works: the Bettendorf Swing Motion Caboose Trucks (#TMW-104). They retail for $6.25 a pair ($5.00 for MPHS members).

Missouri Pacific Historical Society, 431 Kingwood Circle, Cabot, AR 72023

CON-COR
con-cor.com

Now you may order direct from Con-Cor as well as any local retailer. To insure that you get one of our new models, you need to **Pre-Order** from someone.

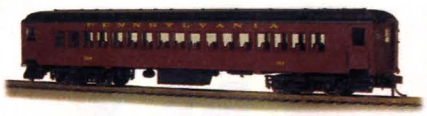
Visit www.con-cor.com for these and other Great Products

HO North Shore Electroliner

1941-1962

Only a Few left. See the Fantastic reviews in magazines. $439.98 ea.

HO MP54 Coaches 1914-1968



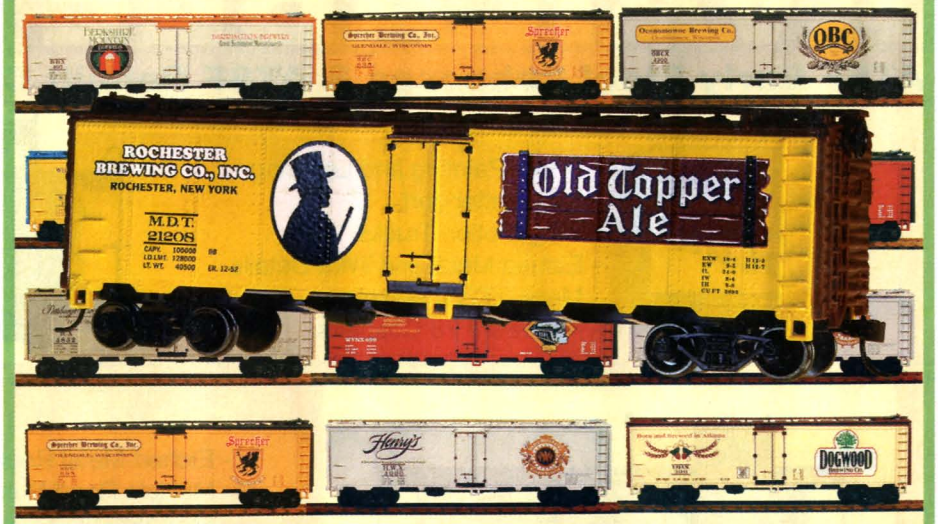
Avail Now: Coaches 2 Pak $119.98
Coming: Combine, Baggage-Mail

HO/HOn3 PCC 1936-1968

● DCC ready ● Interior ● Lights
● "Wow" Detailing
See our Website for Roadnames

Register on-line for our Email Newsletter, and qualify for our $25.00 Monthly Gift Certificate Drawings.
www.con-cor.com/register.htm

ACTION! COLOR!



Dynamic Suds, Rolling Billboards
Lighten up, add a few, a happy hour for your layout.
Favorites with Model Railroaders & Collectors for 20 years.
SASE for latest listing.

GREENWAY PRODUCTS
139 Ramsey Road, Ligonier, PA 15658 (724)238-6268
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
www.greenwayproducts.com
HO Scale Models

831 NW 143RD STREET MIAMI, FL 33168-3017
Tel:(305) 688-8868 Fax:(305) 948-0339
E-Mail: rtrtrains@aol.com
www.ReadyToRollTrains.com
ORDER LINE:1-877-RTR-TRNS(787-8767)
MON 11-5 TUE-FRI 10-6 SAT 9-6

MTH ELECTRIC TRAINS
PREMIER RAILKING
STARTER SETS - ENGINES - ROLLING STOCK
PASSENGER CARS - ACCESSORIES

READY TO ROLL

MTH MEGA-STATION
MIKADO & MOHAWK

KATO N-SCALE SPECIALS
SOUTHERN PACIFIC DAYLIGHT PASSENGER TRAIN PACKAGE
4-8-4 GS-4 #4449 + 10-CAR SET **$314.99**
4-8-4 GS-4 #4449 + 18-CAR SET **$454.99**
SANTA FE PA-1 ABA $189.99
NYC PA-1 AB OR D&H PA-1 AA $119.99
176-0800 UNDECORATED PA-1 AB $114.99

YOUR SOURCE FOR MODEL RR SOUND-EQUIPPED ENGINES

ATHEARN GENESIS ENGINES
4-8-4 UNION PACIFIC **FEF-2** OR **-3** 319.99
F-7 AB SET SP (BOTH POWERED) 289.99
F-3A NEW YORK CENTRAL 149.99
F-7A BURLINGTON UNION PACIFIC 149.99
UNION PACIFIC F-7 ABA (Ph1 FREIGHT) 474.99
SD45-2 SANTA FE(BICENTENNIAL) 189.99
ATLAS "GOLD EDITION" DIESEL ENGINES
7091 OR 7092 OR 7093 SCL SDP-35 159.99
GP-38 BNSF("H3") OR CSX("G") 219.99
GP-40 CP RAIL UNDECORATED 199.99
GP40-2 ALASKA CSX FEC 219.99
INTERMOUNTAIN F-7 ABA SETS (ALL PWR'd)
KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN 454.49
NORTHERN PACIFIC (PASSENGER) 454.49

MTH ELECTRIC TRAINS
2-8-2 **MIKADO** B&O, NYC, PRR, UP 399.99
NYC 4-8-2 **MOHAWK** 399.99
N&W 4-8-4 "J" 399.99
UP 4-12-2 "9000" 489.99
GS-4 SP AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN 389.99
SP **"DAYLIGHT"** 8-CAR PASS SET 449.99
ADD-ON ARTICULATED COACH SET 119.99
ADD-ON CHAIR PASSENGER CAR 64.99
BLACKSTONE MODELS HOn3 CALL

N-SCALE SPECIALS
P2k 2-8-8-2 ATSF OR PRR 219.99
ATHEARN CHALLENGER OR BIG-BOY 319.99
KATO HI-SPEED PASSENGER TRAIN SETS CALL
ATLAS & MTL FEC GP-40+ORTNER 6-PK 239.99

PROTO-2000 HERITAGE STEAM
0-6-0 ATLANTIC COAST LINE **227.99**
2-10-2 BLE,CBQ,C&S,ERIE,PRR 269.99
PROTO-2000 DIESELS
F-7AB ATSF D&RGW 279.99
GP-20 OR GP-30 OR RS-27 189.99
U-30B ATLANTIC COAST LINE **139.99**
SW-8/900 CR N&W SP 185.99
BLUELINE SOUND (w/o DCC)
N & W CLASS A 2-6-6-2 279.99
SP CAB-FORWARD 299.99
PRECISION CRAFT SF PB2 **99.99**
ROUNDHOUSE 4-4-0, 2-8-0 179.99
BOWSER EXECUTIVE LINE
C-628 LEHIGH VALLEY SP **179.99**
U-25B GREAT NORTHERN SF 169.99

HO "NAMED" TRAIN w/DCC & SOUND <> PROTO-2000 ENGINES + 10 CARS
MILWAUKEE ROAD "HIAWATHA" E-7 AA $749.99 GREAT NORTHERN "EMPIRE BUILDER" F-3 AB $699.99

ATLAS GOLD HO SOUND-EQUIPPED $159.99 BLOW-OUT SALE
7595 UNION PACIFIC SD-24
8175 OR 8176 CSX B30-7
8178 SEABOARD SYS B30-7
9472 73 74 CNW MP15DC
9475 OR 9476 CSX MP-15DC
9484 OR 9485 SOUTHERN MP-15DC
9802 BNSF("H1") 8-40B
9813 COTTON BELT 8-40B
10000274 OR 275 WM SD-35
10000283 ACL SD-35
10000286 SCL SD-35
BLI SF C30-7 OR BNSF SD40-2
ATHEARN GENESIS DIESELS
66173 OR 74 OR 75 CSX MP-15AC
66180 OR 181 SOO(BANDIT) MP-15AC
67629 OR 631 MILWAUKEE RD FP-45

WALTHER$ $ALE FLYER $AVING$ $PECIAL
IF YOU PURCHASE ITEMS FROM THE MONTHLY WALTHERS SALE FLYER, WE WANT YOUR BUSINESS! PLACE YOUR ORDER THROUGH US FOR $200.00 OR MORE AND WE WILL OFFER YOU AN **ADDITIONAL 10%* DISCOUNT PLUS FREE SHIPPING****. HELP SUPPORT ONE OF YOUR BRICK-AND-MORTAR TRAIN SHOPS. INT'L SHIPPING AVAILABLE. ORDERS MUST BE PLACED AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE FLYER EXPIRATION DATE.
*10% DISCOUNT APPLIES TO STANDARD DISCOUNTED ITEMS ONLY AND WILL NOT BE APPLIED TO CERTAIN SHORT-DISCOUNT SELECTIONS.
**FREE SHIPPING ONLY APPLIES TO 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES - WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AVAILABLE VIA USPS EXPRESS MAIL OR FEDEX INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY.

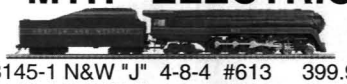
ATLAS N-SCALE DCC-EQUIPPED ENGINES $64.99
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST QUANTITIES VERY LIMITED NO RAINCHECKS / BACKORDERS SHIPPING & INSURANCE=$5 PER ENGINE WITH EACH ADDITIONAL ENGINE ONLY $1.00 MORE
48769 SOUTHERN PACIFIC 8-40B
49102 OR 49103 B N SD-60
49284 CONRAIL SD-60M
49357 SEABOARD SYSTEM SD-50
49363 SOUTHERN PACIFIC SD-50
4963x SP OR JC OR VGN T-M
49692 SOUTHERN SD-35
54464 OR 65 SRR OR 54467 UP SD-24

LIFE-LIKE & PROTO-N LIQUIDATION SALE
7353 ILL CENTRAL E-6A $29.99
7358 OR 7359 SAL E-6 AB $34.99
7455 SAL FA-1 AB SET $49.99
7496 UP ERIE BUILT A $29.99
7591 OR 7592 N&W C-424 $34.99
7729 NEW HAVEN DL-109 $42.99
7764 ATSF GP-20 $39.99
7790 NYC GP-20 $39.99
34072 ACL E-8A $39.99
34073 ACL E-8A $39.99

MTH ELECTRIC TRAINS HO SD-70ACe & SD70M-2 $229.99
80-2001-1 C S X SD-70ACe DARK FUTURE 3 #'s
80-2002-1 K C S SD-70ACe TRI-COLOR 3 #'s
80-2003-1 B N S F SD-70ACe SWOOSH 3 #'s
80-2004-1 EMD DEMONSTRATOR SD-70ACe 3 #'s
80-2005-1 MONTANA RAIL LINK SD-70ACe 3 #'s
80-2006-1 UNION PACIFIC SD-70ACe #8321
80-2007-1 MISSOURI PACIFIC SD-70ACe "HERITAGE"
80-2008-1 WESTERN PACIFIC SD-70ACe "HERITAGE"
80-2009-1 MKT "KATY" SD-70ACe "HERITAGE"
80-2010-1 D & R G W SD-70ACe "HERITAGE"
80-2011-1 C & NW SD-70ACe "HERITAGE"

80-2012-1 SOUTHERN PACIFIC SD-70ACe "HERITAGE"
80-2013-1 GEORGE H BUSH SD-70ACe #4141
80-2014-1 NORFOLK SOUTHERN SD70M-2 #2649
80-2015-1 NORFOLK SOUTHERN SD70M-2 #2651
80-2016-1 NORFOLK SOUTHERN SD70M-2 #2654
80-2017-1 EMD DEMONSTRATOR SD70M-2 #74
80-2018-1 EMD DEMONSTRATOR SD70M-2 #75
80-2019-1 EMD DEMONSTRATOR SD70M-2 #76
80-2020-1 FLORIDA EAST COAST SD70M-2 #100
80-2021-1 F E C SD70M-2 #102
80-2022-1 F E C SD70M-2 #103
80-2023-1 UNION PACIFIC SD-70ACe
80-2024-1 UNION PACIFIC SD-70ACe
80-2025-1 UNION PACIFIC SD-70ACe
80-2026-1 CANADIAN NATIONAL SD70M-2
80-2027-1 CANADIAN NATIONAL SD70M-2
80-2028-1 CANADIAN NATIONAL SD70M-2
80-2029-1 FEC - RAILAMERICA SD70M-2
80-2030-1 FEC - RAILAMERICA SD70M-2
80-2031-1 FEC - RAILAMERICA SD70M-2

MTH ELECTRIC TRAINS HO STEAM LOCOMOTIVES



80-3145-1 N&W "J" 4-8-4 #613 399.99
80-3146-1 N&W "J" 4-8-4 #611 399.99
80-3147-1 N&W "J" 4-8-4 #612 399.99
80-3148-1 N&W "J" 4-8-4 #600 399.99
80-3149-1 N&W "J" 4-8-4 #603 399.99
80-3150-1 N&W "J" 4-8-4 #604 399.99

80-3152-1 UP 4-12-2 #9000 489.99
80-3154-1 UP 4-12-2 #9503 489.99
80-3155-1 UP 4-12-2 #9512 489.99

CHALLENGERS

80-3157-1 CLINCHFIELD #673 529.99

80-3158-1 D&RG 4-6-6-4 #3805 529.99

80-3159-1 UP TT-GREY w/SILVER#3983 529.99
80-3160-1 UP TT-GREY w/YELLOW#3977 529.99

CALL FOR OTHER MODELS

80-3163-1 NYC DREYFUSS SCULLIN #5452 399.99
80-3164-1 NYC DREYFUSS SCULLIN #5453 399.99

80-3165-1 NYC DREYFUSS BOXPOK #5449 399.99
80-3166-1 NYC DREYFUSS BOXPOK #5448 399.99
80-3167-1 NYC DREYFUSS BOXPOK #5445 399.99
80-3168-1 NYC DREYFUSS BOXPOK #5446 399.99

80-3169-1 NYC EMPIRE STATE EXPRESS #5426 399.99
80-3170-1 NYC EMPIRE STATE EXPRESS #5429 399.99

ATLAS HO-SCALE ENGINES w/o SOUND SPECIALS
QUANTITIES VERY LIMITED NO RAINCHECKS / BACKORDERS SHIPPING & INSURANCE $6 PER ENGINE w/ADD'L ENG $1 MORE

MASTER SERIES w/DCC $69.99
7435 KAISER STEEL U-30C 8986 N & W GP-40
7564 OR 7565 SRR SD-24 9525 RIO GRANDE H15-44

SILVER SERIES - DCC-READY $59.99
7215 UNION PACIFIC 8-40B
7316 OR 17 OR 18 N&W U30C
7323 UNION PACIFIC U30C
7349 OR 7350 C&O U30C
7355 KAISER STEEL U30C
8022 OR 8023 UNION PACIFIC B23-7

CLASSICS $49.99
9365 OR 70 OR 71 N&W C-425
9378 OR 9379 PRR C-425

>>END OF $UMMER $UPER $AVING$ $ALE ATLAS N-SCALE ARTICULATED AUTO CARRIER FEC / NS / TTX / UP $24.99<<

WORLD-WIDE SHIPPING Available-Give Us A Call
Prices listed are for mail order only and subject to change. Quantities are limited. Not responsible for errors in printing. Florida residents add sales tax.
Non-refundable UPS shipping charges additional; minimum shipping charge $9.00. 10-day returns for unused goods; 15% restocking fee.

Cover Story

REVIEW HO

MTH SD70ACe rocks!

Review and Photos by John Sipple
Research and modeling by R. Dave Carr

SD70Ace diesel locomotive, 80-2006-1, MSRP: $249.95

MTH (Mike's Train House)
7020 Columbia Gateway Dr.
Columbia, MD 21046
410-381-2580 • Fax: 410-381-6122
www.mthtrains.com

By-The-Numbers

SD70ACe
MTH
HO 1:87 • Type: Diesel
Traction Tires? No

Pull Power (Ozs @ Full Slip)

Pull	÷	Loco Wt	=	Efficiency
7.4		24.3		30.5%

Volts	Amps
15	0.7

Analog DC

Start Volts = 7.9

Volts	Amps	Scale MPH
7.9	0.5	1
13.0	0.5	37
16.0	0.7	102

DCC

Speed	Step (of 128)	Scale MPH
Min	1	1
Mid	50	50
Top	90*	90*

Speed	Step (of 120)	Scale MPH
Min	1	1
Mid	50	50
Top	100*	100*

*** Maximum speed/setting at which throttle and speed are the same.**

ELECTRO-MOTIVE Division (EMD) of General Motors (aka: General Motors Locomotive Group or GMLG) first started delivering the SD70 with a plain, standard or spartan cab, but that was soon superseded by a version with a wide, comfort cab, and it wore the designation of SD70M, the "M" standing for the wide cab. This all took place back in 1992 as these machines took over from the prior SD60 series. EMD had suffered seriously as a result of its stumble with the SD50, which didn't perform well. General Electric took ascendancy in the loco building business, and EMD was playing catch-up.

To close the gap, EMD released the SD70MAC, which featured not only the wide cab, but also the AC traction system that promised to revolutionize locomotive operation. GE, who does electricity as well as almost anybody, came out with their own AC unit, the AC4400CW. In the DC traction world and matching up with the SD70M was the Dash 9-44CW. The nineties would see these four locomotives fighting to garner the market. Over the next decade, EMD would sell some 4,000 or more of these SD70-series pullers.

There were new needs in locomotives into the early years of the 21st Century. While a new line of locos was being designed and built, General Motors sold off its locomotive building operations in January 2005, and EMD became EMD —Electro Motive Diesel. Free of General Motors, it neither floated like cream to the top or sank like a stone to the bottom. To fight off mediocrity, the new EMD continued to improve the new SD70 line-up, available since the previous year, with the SD70M-2 and the SD70ACe. Train crews had never particularly liked the desktop control setup, so a new standard wide cab was designed that had a lot in common with the old AAR control stand but was loaded with state-of-the-art communications and control technology.

The other difference lay in producing a locomotive that would be even more emissions-compliant. Tying all of that into a body style with SD80/90 flared radiators and a new nose shape,

He's a brute, with his pug nose and flared radiators bulging like biceps. Our testing revealed a mighty puller as well. The ditch light housings are a bit large to accommodate the LEDs inside.

Number 8321 is a hard-working industrial power plant on wheels and this model represents that well. All of the small lettering is quite legible and there are small figures in the cab. With the exception of the front snowplow, all else comes installed and ready to run.

the result also offers some savings in AC traction. To date, EMD has sold a respectable number of these machines, with the 365 to Union Pacific leading the way, 270 to BNSF in second, and 130 operated by Kansas City Southern in third. They've left the lower 48 to work in Alaska, down under in Australia, into Brazil, copper mining in Peru, and a couple of batches down to Mexico. The big resistance to selling more is all of the machines they sold in the past that are still working out there. Is there a government "Clunkers for new locos" program available?

MTH's SD70ACe

Anyone who models this machine should know: It really rocks! Axle loading limits a six-axle locomotive to something on the order of 69,000 pounds, give or take, which works out to around 414,000 pounds total, though most orders ask for an ACe of around 408,000. Within that set of limits and general Plate C height restriction under 16 feet, a width of just over ten feet, and a length of 74 feet, 3 inches, what can we get that will run seventy miles per hour all day, every day?

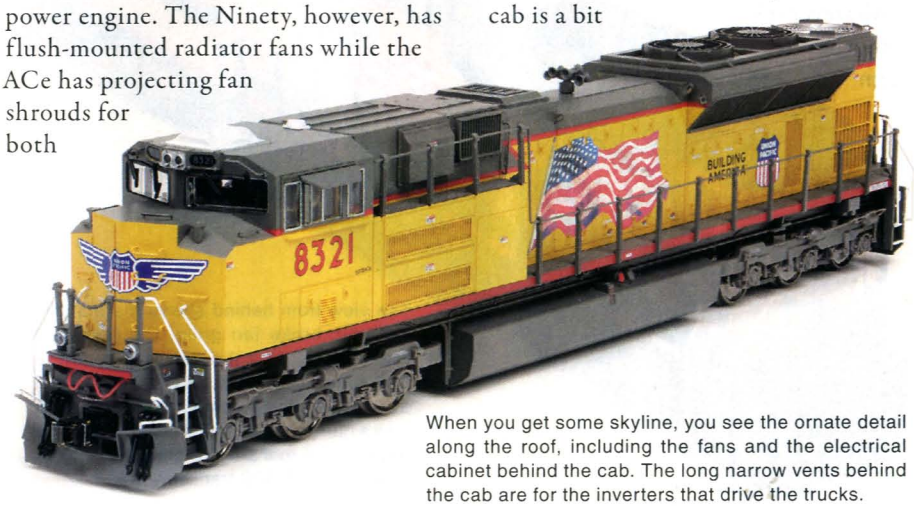
In a few numbers, you can get a starting tractive effort of 191,000 pounds, a continuous tractive effort of 157,000 pounds, adhesion of 35 percent of the loco's weight, dynamic brake effort of 106,000 pounds, all with a V-16 710G3C-T2 engine whumping up 4,300 horsepower. There was never a steam engine that could produce that sort of starting and continuous tractive effort and also have the ability to reach 70 miles per hour. And get this: Thanks to AC traction, it can run at 2 miles per hour all day long without burning out the traction motors! That's what a model maker has to face, and it ain't easy.

Outwardly, this model will borrow a lot from the now-defunct SD90MAC and its convertible relative, the SD90/43MAC that was delivered in a 90 car body but used a 4,300 horsepower engine. The Ninety, however, has flush-mounted radiator fans while the ACe has projecting fan shrouds for both fans. The later product is also within an inch of being six feet shorter. New trucks are offered, including a new, non-radial truck, the HTSC, and a new radial version called the HTCR-4, and both versions are "bolsterless."

The nose dominates the spotting department and it has a sort of Karl Malden property at first sight. Then you realize they wanted a straight passageway through the middle of the nose to the door and then they had to taper it on each side so the crew could see a brakeman on the steps. Form follows function, and this all makes sense.

So how did MTH do? Very well, actually. I've been impressed with their modeling right along, so I wasn't surprised by how well they captured Union Pacific number 8321. This locomotive is part of a 115-locomotive group that runs from number 8309 to 8423 and began its group delivery around January 2005 and went to early August of the same year. UP roster number 8321 has the serial number of 20046610-013, was finished by EMD in February 2005 and was accepted onto UP property 21 April 2005. I've seen it in photos as brand-new, and I've seen her working dirty. Unlike some members in her group that got fancy paint schemes and special numbers, 8321 is a working stiff, though she's got a nice uniform. From the winged shield on the nose to the nicely reproduced flag decal to the UP shield with the "Building America" logo, she's a proud member of the tribe, and MTH has done well with the detail.

Let's not get started about handrails, which everyone makes too thick so they'll survive the unpacking. These are as nice as any on the market, though the closest stanchion to the right side of the cab is a bit



When you get some skyline, you see the ornate detail along the roof, including the fans and the electrical cabinet behind the cab. The long narrow vents behind the cab are for the inverters that drive the trucks.

too tall, causing them to put a slight "S" in the handrail. Every detail I measured was just right until I got bored with measuring. The model "feels" like the prototype in size and proportions. All of the grilles have a blackened property behind them such that they look the way the prototype's look, even when brand new. Radial HTCR side-frames are modeled, and the modeling is good and reasonably accurate. More importantly, the side vents on the left side for the inverter cabinet are very nicely done. I was also impressed by the fans and grilles atop the model.

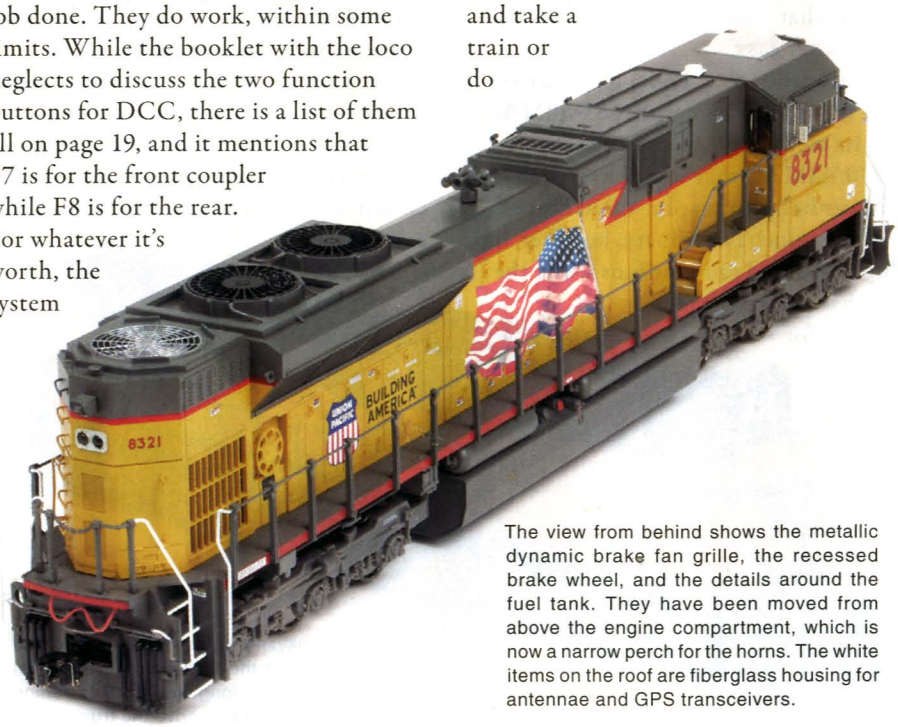
There are a couple of details to discuss. The plow is an aftermarket installation on the nose pilot, and I hate to be grouchy, but I had to get help with it. My intent was to slide it up under the MU hoses and make an easy job of it, but things didn't work out that way. The hoses popped off, and while I could put them back on, what really needed to happen was to remove the hoses, install the plow, and then install the hoses poked down through the plow. This is a dicey little job, since now the plow is in the way. Our colleague, Dave Carr, made short work of the job, and we were both pleased that the hoses generally looked as though they were hanging downward.

The other issue is the couplers. I like the idea of working couplers, and I don't mind dealing with oversized and over-length couplers to get the job done. They do work, within some limits. While the booklet with the loco neglects to discuss the two function buttons for DCC, there is a list of them all on page 19, and it mentions that F7 is for the front coupler while F8 is for the rear. For whatever it's worth, the system works by using a function button in DCC or a dedicated button on the DCS system to open one coupler or the other, leaving the cars behind. There is no closing button; coupler closing and latching is done in the switching process.

An MTH spokesman said he had his best results at Speed Step 14 (of 128), which corresponds to about 14 scale miles per hour. Slower than that and the couplers may not latch closed. Prototypically speaking, we've seen railroaders not get a latch the first time and load up for the second pass, but that involves a speed of 5 miles per hour instead of 2. Still, now that I know this process (despite the lack of discussion on the topic in the instruction booklet), I am fairly successful. I can roll around and take a train or do some actual switching, and I don't need to have magnets everywhere. The process doesn't work well on curves and gets iffy when you try to pick up a single, light car, such as a caboose.

I tried the coupling trick with various makes of magnetic knuckles and found that plastic seems to work better than cast metal, something of a disappointment. For Kadees, I had to load up to around 25 to get a lock. All of this is for a single, fairly heavy car. If you have a long string, you may get away with something slower, but probably at least ten. The loco has a fair amount of momentum out of the box, so you need to get the trick of timing so that the loco hits at fifteen while you've actually cut the power. Of course, there's no way to break a string five cars back. We'll leave that for another invention.

While the control system in DCC and DCS has pretty good latency (very little lag between button push and the results), the horn doesn't blow short toots very well, a common problem across the industry. As a result, you have a series of single, double, triple, and grade crossing toots at F9,10, and 12. Our sample does not have a smoke unit nor did I want one for a diesel. I've used smokers in diesels out in the garden and if the smoker works really well, the motive power super is having a heart attack! Smoke units also suck up a huge amount of juice, so this is a case where discretion is indeed the better part of valor. Besides, the Tier-Two-Compliant ACe had better not show any smoke!



The view from behind shows the metallic dynamic brake fan grille, the recessed brake wheel, and the details around the fuel tank. They have been moved from above the engine compartment, which is now a narrow perch for the horns. The white items on the roof are fiberglass housing for antennae and GPS transceivers.

Playing the ACe

Weighing in at a whopping 24.3 ounces, our sample pulled a very respectable

You can see daylight through the radiator intakes though that area is appropriately darkened. The other grille openings are also blackened. They are nearly impossible to clean beyond blowing out whatever gets lodged there, so even photos of new locos shows the darkness of the grilles.

7.4 ounces, good for an efficiency rating of 30.5 percent. Much of this is due to the excellent rounding of the wheels. I've had locos in the past with wheels out of round and so they couldn't put forth the best effort. This is just another example of MTH quality. I'll leave you to read the BTNs yourself, but you'll notice the DCC and DCS settings show a given throttle setting produced the same scale speed. However, note the asterisks. When I opened the throttle above the marked settings, the matched speed then went off synch. Frankly, with maximum rail speeds in North America for freight at generally 79 or less, this isn't a big issue. I like that I can set the DCC or DCS throttle for 79, and the speed will be the same.

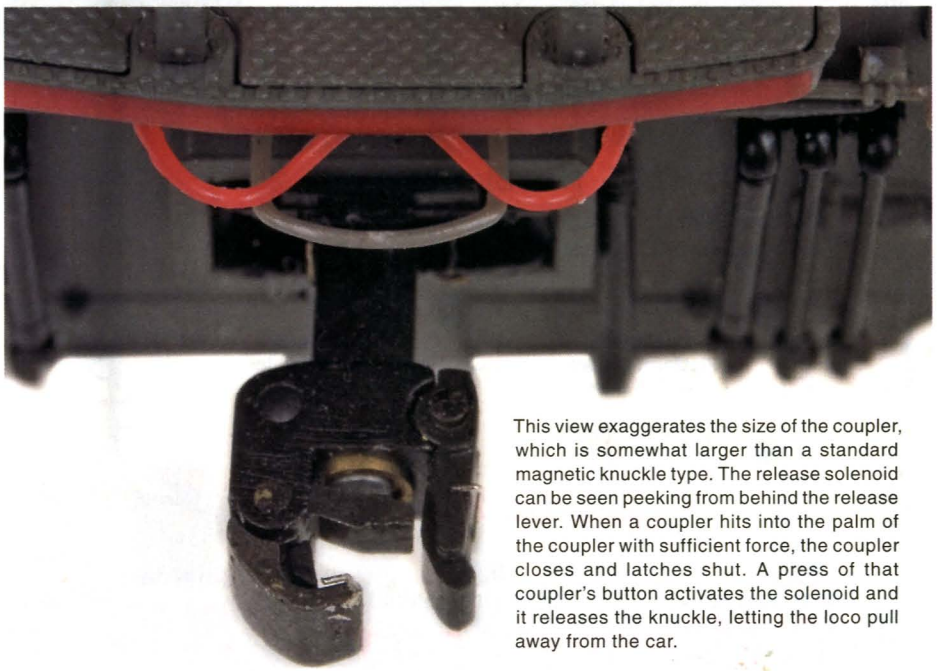
Put to work, it had no trouble single-handedly pulling the heaviest train I could assemble. I first tried fifty 40-footers and that was no trouble. Then came an even longer modern train with 60-footers and a dozen double stack loads, and it handled that without grumbling, either. Both trains were wrapped around loops that gave them a resistance about equal to a 1.5 percent grade. I was very impressed!

Consisting

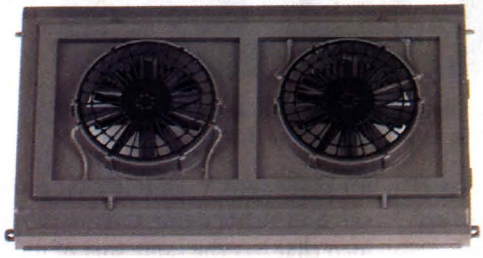
When it comes down to that, I made some discoveries. We already know that the decoders in MTH HO locos don't have advanced consisting or CVs 2, 6, and 5 for speed adjustment. Basically, if you're running all MTH machines, you should be able to run them together, since they are all speed matched such that a setting of 20 in DCC or DCS should produce about 20 scale miles per hour. And without advanced consisting, your consisting choices are Basic and Proprietary. Basic involves setting both locos to the same address, and commands sent to one are sent to both. This is clumsy but it works. I've used it to MU A-B F-units, since they often have the same number followed by a letter.

Proprietary is also known as Old and a number of other names, but it is something that's kept by your system and not in the decoder, so I think of it as System consisting. This means if you get them dialed in at home, they won't be on someone else's system. There is still the issue of speed matching, and with DCC systems going up to 126 steps or thereabouts, your MTH locomotive will hit that speed, even if it's not prototypical. So you are going to have to find a loco that has the same sort of untamed exuberance; some don't go much above seventy or eighty, and so you have to be a little careful with the throttle. I tried a number of non-MTH locos, all diesels, and only found one that would play fairly nice. Bachmann's new DDA40X can run around 177 smph out of the box, so it has to be tamed down to run with the MTH. That gives us UP's latest tied with its biggest, even if the DD is a lone survivor in their Heritage Fleet. The DD is a silent model, but the MTH makes enough sound for both of them!

A company spokesman told me that MTH is looking at adding the Missing CVs, with a warning that if you tinker



This view exaggerates the size of the coupler, which is somewhat larger than a standard magnetic knuckle type. The release solenoid can be seen peeking from behind the release lever. When a coupler hits into the palm of the coupler with sufficient force, the coupler closes and latches shut. A press of that coupler's button activates the solenoid and it releases the knuckle, letting the loco pull away from the car.



Very little disassembly is required. The radiator housing snaps off to provide access to the blue potentiometer that provides manual control of the loco's volume. Of course, both DCC and DCS let the volume be set from your throttle system. Note the fan blades and the wire conduits modeled.

with the speed settings, the loco won't be speed-matched anymore. They are also considering adding the advanced consisting CVs, 19 and 21 to 24. All of this waits for a future release, however.

An ACe in the hole

If you wanted to run a batch of these Aces together, they'd be just fine. However, when you mix locos from other makers, the issue gets interesting. Always remember that when locos run light together, they bring out the worst in each other. When they join to pull a train that one less of them can't get pulled, they bring out the best in each other. This MTH SD70ACe is a top-notch model that operates very well and offers loads of innovations. It arrives ready for fun, so all you have to do is unpack it and give it a run. How you implement this acquisition can make it a very good purchase.

RR
Rivarossi
www.hornby-usa.com
Distributed by
HORNBY
HORNBY AMERICA
877-358-6405
www.hornbyamerica.com

RIVAROSSI 60' STEEL PASSENGER CARS

HR4036 - 60' Coach CNW, 3 car set
HR4037 - 60' Coach CNW, single car
HR4038 - 60' Baggage CNW, single car

HR4039 - 60' Coach Penn, 3 car set
HR4040 - 60' Coach Penn, single car
HR4041 - 60' Baggage Penn, single car

Also available unlettered, HR4084 - 60' Coach & HR4085 Baggage
"Pullman Green with Black Roof"

HO SCALE

SEARCHLIGHT
Signals in HO & N

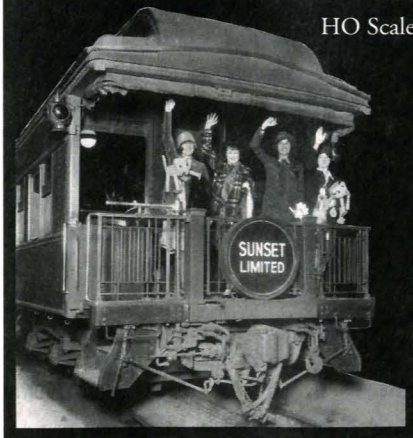
NEW! US&S H-2 Block Signals
• 100% Assembled • Scale Sized Components • TRUE Colors!
• 3 LED's Per Head (HO) • Brass/Plastic Construction • Pre-Painted

Dual Head, Platform Ladder, w/Tall Base
HO #4050 $44.95
N #1050 $TBA

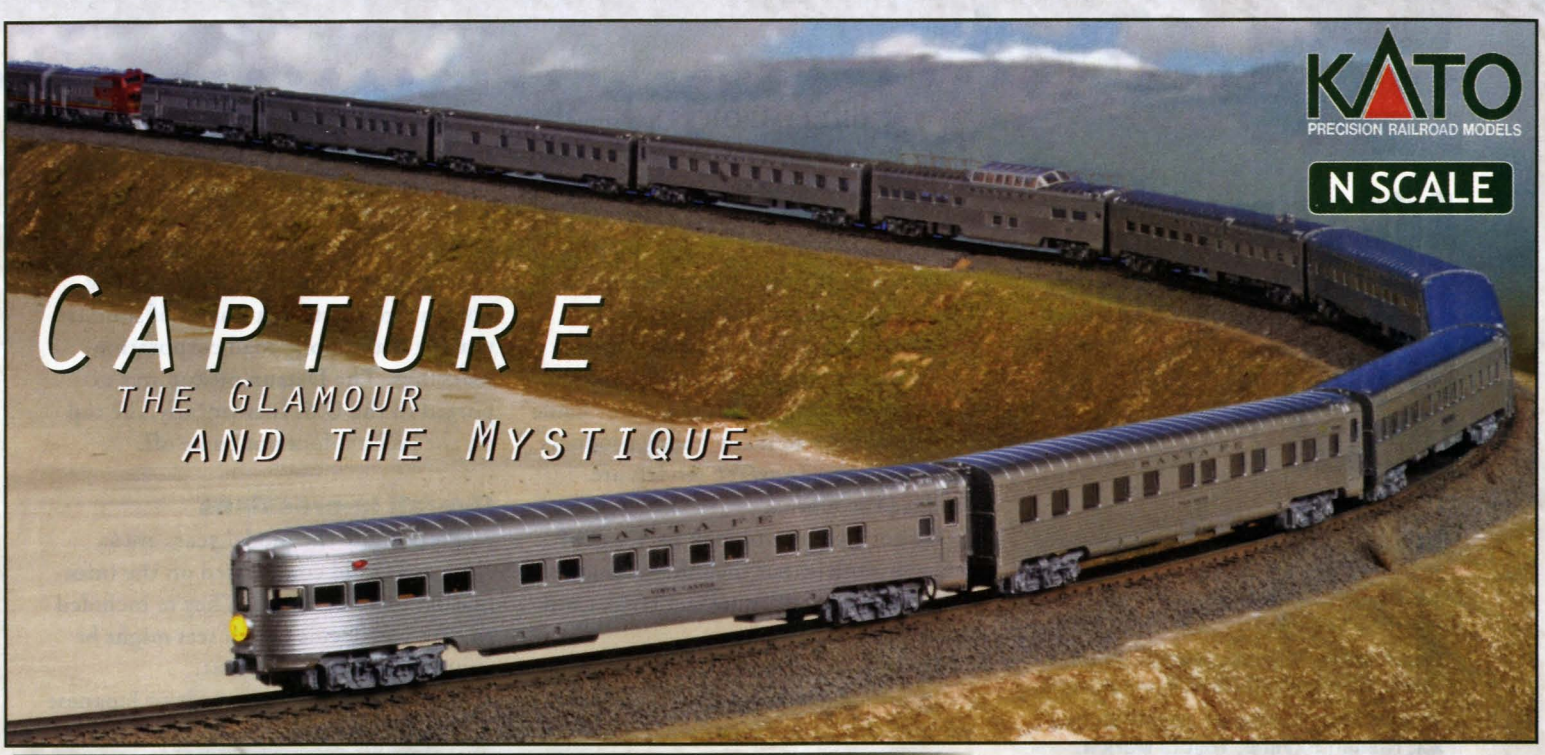
Single Head, Platform Ladder, w/Tall Base
HO #4051 $34.95
N #1051 $TBA

Coming Late 2009!
Your wait is over... Watch the video online
BLMAmodels.com
BLMA MODELS
(562) 712-7085 Sales@BLMAmodels.com

ESPEE HEAVYWEIGHT SUNSET LIMITED
HO Scale

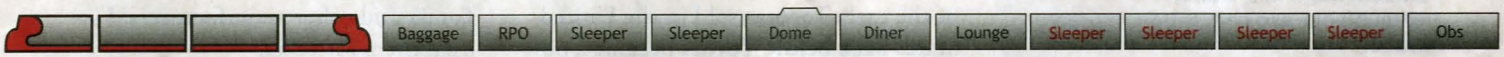


The Coach Yard
Committed to Excellence
www.thecoachyard.com



The Super Chief - the "Train of the Stars"

Relive the golden years of the Santa Fe and star-studded train rides across the beautiful southwest! The Santa Fe "Super Chief" was reknowned for its high-class service and high-class ridership, giving it the nickname "The Train of the Stars" as it shuttled movie stars, high rollers, and political powerhouses to and from the city of Angels, setting a new standard of luxury and decedance in long distance travel that may never again be matched.



The full Santa Fe "Super Chief" consist was a 12 car train pulled by four F7 locomotives in ABBA configuration. The Kato Basic set offers an 8 car assemblage of cars to create a miniature version of the full consist, while those with the desire to model the train in its entirety can add the optional C set of Sleeper cars to extend the train to its full, majestic, length. - CHICAGO TO LOS ANGELES, 1953 CONSIST

Item #	Description	MSRP
176-2123	N EMD F7A Santa Fe Warbonnet #38/38C	$85
176-2211	N EMD F7B Santa Fe Warbonnet *Can also be used with the upcoming "El Capitan" release!*	$85
106-0704	N Santa Fe Super Chief 8 Car Set	$200
106-6003	N Santa Fe Super Chief 4 Car Set C Add-on sleeper set	$100

The Santa Fe "El Capitan"

A "High Level" model of the Southwest's finest economy train

Coming soon from Kato USA - The sister train of the "Super Chief" and the origin of modern-day bi-level passenger cars. The "El Capitan" ran alongside the Glamorous "Super Chief" (and, after the late 1950's, as a combined train with), providing luxury travel for an affordable price, making it truly a "first class train for the everyman".

Coming November 2009

176-2122	N EMD F7A Santa Fe Warbonnet #40/40C	$85
106-075	N Santa Fe "El Capitan" 10 car Set	$250
106-7115	N Santa Fe "El Capitan" 2 car add-on Set	$50

KATO U.S.A., Inc · 100 Remington Road · Schaumburg, IL · 60173 · www.katousa.com

REVIEW N

Add some TomyTec traffic to your N-scale layout

Review and Photos by Bill Cawthon

Japanese automobiles, 1/150 scale, MSRP: $13.00/set

Basic Set A: Toyopet Corona, Datsun Bluebird, Nissan Cedric, Prince Gloria

Basic Set B: Contents: Toyota Celica XX, Nissan Skyline, Toyota Mark II, Nissan Cedric Taxi

Basic Set C: Prince Skyline GT, Datsun Truck, Toyota Crown Taxi, Toyota Crown public road corporation car

TomyTec Trailer Collection 3, 1/150 scale, MSRP: $14.00/each
(UD) Nissan Big Sam tractor with 40-foot containers, various lines
(UD) Nissan Big Sam twin-screw with Hitachi Logistics Trailer
Mitsubishi Fuso with Nippo Express Trailer

TOMYTEC Company, Ltd.
3-3-20 Omochanomachi
Mibumachi, Japan
www.TomyTec.co.jp (in Japanese only)

Imported and distributed by
Mokei Imports
6950 Kingsbury
St. Louis, MO 63130
314-725-8413 • Fax: 314-725-0239
E-mail: mokei6950@aol.com

MOKEI IMPORTS has some new Japanese N-scale cars and trucks from TomyTec that will make easy additions to the traffic on your N-scale layout.

TomyTec, like its sibling enterprise, Tomix, is a division of the Tomy Toy Company, one of Japan's larger toy and hobby manufacturers. TomyTec produces vehicles to go with the trains made by Tomix. Like so many hobby products these days, the TomyTec models are produced in China.

We got a chance to look over sets of the new models that include passenger cars and a series of container trucks and heavy-haul rigs.

TomyTec has assembled its car models into four-model sets, three of which are available now. Here's what comes in each set:

Basic Set A includes Japanese cars from 1955 to 1965. Inside you'll find a blue circa 1960 Toyopet Corona, a light blue 1959 Datsun Bluebird 310, a red and white 1961 Nissan Cedric 30, and a gold 1965 Prince Gloria. Prince was a car company that merged with Nissan in 1966. The Toyopet Corona was one of the early Toyotas sold in the United States back before Toyota became a powerhouse on the American automotive scene. A descendant of the Prince Gloria was sold in the U.S as the Infiniti M45.

Basic Set B covers 1975 to 1985 and contains a red 1982 Toyota Celica XX (called the Supra over here), a silver 1977 Nissan Skyline, a brown Toyota Mark II from the early 1980s, and a 1979 Nissan Cedric 430 Taxi. Other than the taxi, these are all fairly representative of the cars of the 1980s with their sharply creased sheet metal and continental styling.

Basic Set C includes cars from 1955 to 1975 with a gray 1963 Prince Skyline GT, a green 1957 Datsun 220 pickup, a gray 1983 Crown Taxi, and a yellow Toyota Crown station wagon of similar vintage with public road corporation markings. The Datsun pickup was exported to the U.S. Incidentally, the top on the pickup does not come off.

Overall Impressions

Please note the model years are as close as I could come based on the information I had available. They're included to help you decide which sets might be appropriate for your layout.

Since the models are made to Japanese N scale, they are a little over six percent larger than standard American N-scale models. However, since the cars offered are based on Japanese prototypes, which tend to be small and narrow (width is a big issue in Japan), the difference isn't really noticeable, especially at typical viewing distances. Heaven knows there are thousands of little 1/150 cars on American layouts already, courtesy of Tomix and other manufacturers. I've used them for years.

When you plunk down your hard-earned money, you will get a set of ready-to-use cars, complete with painted details. The Tomix cars don't have interiors, so adding drivers is going to be tricky.

Since there are a dozen different vehicles involved, I am not going to check the specs on each one, but the cars with which I am familiar look good. The tooling is quite fine, right down to the vent wings on the Datsun pickup and the

The new vehicle sets from TomyTec will add some variety to your layout. All are based on Japanese prototypes but many are similar to vehicles exported to the U.S. and Canada.

TomyTec has a dozen new cars divided into three sets. Top row (left to right): Set A includes a Toyopet Corona, Datsun Bluebird, Nissan Cedric, and a Prince Gloria. Middle row: Set B has a Toyota Celica XX, Nissan Skyline, Toyota Mark II, and a Nissan Cedric Taxi. Bottom row: Prince Skyline GT, Datsun Truck, Toyota Crown Taxi, and a Toyota Crown public road corporation car.

paint covers without obscuring. Added details like lights and trim are very well done except for a couple of bloopers I noticed on some wheels, and those could be easily corrected if you're so inclined.

Industrial Vehicles

Also new from TomyTec is Trailer Collection 3, an assortment of tractor-trailer combinations including 40-foot containers decorated for Wan Hai, Cosco, Maersk, UABC, K Line, NYK Logistics, MOL, and a brown container without owner markings. These are all mounted on 3-axle container chassis pulled by Nissan Big Sam single-rear-axle tractors. Each model comes with a set of side-impact bumpers that simply snap in place.

The collection also includes a couple of nice heavy-haul rigs. The first is a twin-screw Nissan Big Sam pulling a Hitachi Logistics pole trailer with a load of steel I-beams. Where most manufacturers would have been happy with the typical, toy-like hook-and-eye hitch, TomyTec fashioned a ball-and-socket arrangement that looks very realistic. There's also a nice headache rack on the back of the tractor cab. The second rig is a major heavy-hauler. You can tell by the ballast weight compartment over the Mitsubishi Fuso's dual rear axles and by the loadbed on the Nippo Express trailer. The trailer is quite interesting; it's a full trailer with free-swiveling, dual-axle bogies at either end, somewhat like a flat car on its trucks. You can attach the drawbar to either end of the trailer.

These trucks are some of the nicest available in N scale. They're loaded with detail, are sharply molded, and the paint and printing is top-notch. The downside is the fact the markings are all in Japanese. You can either ignore it (it's really small) or paint over the print.

A Good Value

All in all, these vehicles are well made and a good value for the money. The car sets offer a nice variety of shapes and colors to add interest to your streets and highways, and the trucks are just the thing for a busy intermodal operation.

If they don't have them in stock, your favorite hobby source can order these new TomyTec models from Mokei Imports. I'm glad to see them and I think you will be, too.

The TomyTec Trailer assortment includes 40-foot containers decorated for Cosco, K-Line, Maersk, MOL, NYK Logistics, UASC, and Wan Hai, as well as an undecorated brown container. Each rig includes a set of side impact bumpers to be added by the modeler.

Included in the Trailer Collection are these two heavy haul rigs. On the left is a Mitsubishi Fuso pulling a Nippo Express trailer with articulated trucks. On the right is a Nissan Big Sam tractor with a Hitachi Logistics pole trailer and a load of I-beams.

Diesel Harbor Tugboat steams in from Frenchman River Model Works

O — Frenchman River Model Works has released a new diesel tugboat kit that's ready to pull into the harbor of your layout. The tugboat is modeled after those built for the US Army Transportation Corps in the early 1950s and used for maneuvering in and out of crowded ports and rivers.

FRMW's O-scale model features a one-piece resin casting hull, superstructure and wheelhouse, and includes tire bumpers, running light shields, a smokestack, life floats, doors, and bow fender. Also included are the mast, searchlights, an anchor, horn, davit, and bitts made from lead free pewter castings. Each tugboat kit also features easy-to-apply laser-cut windows and searchlight lens, making this model a "seabreeze" to assemble. The completed kit measures 11-1/2 inches long. The 45-foot Diesel Harbor Tugboat Kit (#135) retails for $89.75.

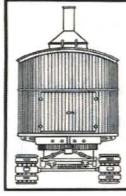
Small vessels like this were used to help ships dock and for towing small barges. They can still be found operating in ports and rivers around the world.

Frenchman River Model Works, 72191 VM Hwy, Stratton, NE 69043; 308-276-2174; E-mail: jcleveland@gpcom.net; www.frenchmanriver.com

Great Decals! TM

Fallout Shelter Signs
CP Mandarin Orange
B&O—3 titles
Interstate—2 titles
Virginian—15 titles
Southern cabooses
PRR X-29 box cars
L&N—6 titles
RF&P—6 titles
FEC—3 titles

...and more! In G-, O-, S-, HO-, and N-scales
William Mosteller, P.O. Box 994, Herndon, VA 20172
SASE for list, or see www.greatdecals.com



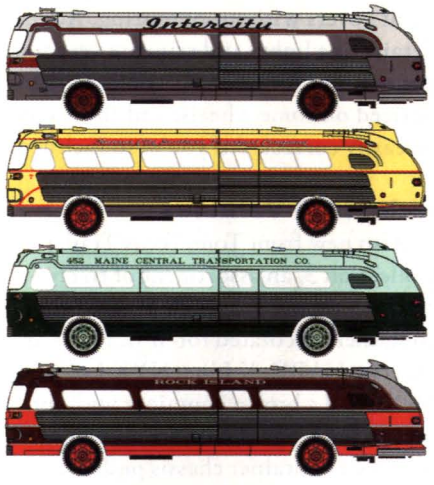
Highway Miniatures
HO scale steam-era vehicle kits
The Steam Shovel's Back
JORDAN PRODUCTS
P.O. BOX 644
BRIGHTON, MI 48116
Send For Free Info.

HOBBY LOADS
HANDMADE REAL COAL NO TWO ALIKE
20 years manufacturing scale coal loads
HO, S, O, O27,On30, & G scales
Send SASE to: Wilson Harrell
936D Moyer Road
Newport News, VA 23608
(757)877-7152

New Flxible Buses from Athearn

N & HO — Athearn has added new paint schemes to its line of Flxible Buses. Details include razor sharp printing and painting, clear molded windows, rubber tires, and interior seats. All models are factory assembled with all detailed parts applied, plus new tooling. The series features buses from Intercity, Kansas City Southern, Maine Central, and Rock Island. The N-scale buses (#17359 – #17366) retail for $19.98 each and the HO-scale Flxible Buses (#29009 – #29016) retail for $22.98 each.

The Flxible transit bus is modeled after the 1950s and 1960s version of bus used in the US until 1978. Each bus features large "fishbowl" windshields and forward slanting windows, giving these vehicles their distinctive look.



Athearn Inc., 2883 E. Spring St Ste 100, Long Beach, CA 90806; 310-763-7140; Fax: 310-763-7449; E-mail: athearn@athearn.com; www.athearn.com

Now available from **TOMYTEC**

The Semi Truck Collection from TOMYTEC

N SCALE
Wide assortment of colors and models available.

Contact your local hobby outlet.

MSRP: $14 per truck 12 trucks per box

Mokei Imports, Inc.
6950 Kingsbury • St. Louis, MO 63130
Phone: 314-725-8413 • Fax: 314-725-0329 • e-mail: mokei6950@aol.com

Athearn releases newly tooled 40-foot chassis

HO — Athearn has announced the November release of its new 40-foot Chassis Twin Pack. Each chassis is fully assembled and features all-new tooling and contemporary paint schemes. According to Athearn, each two-pack includes new container floors to replace the floors of older Athearn 40-foot containers, making them compatible with the new chassis.

The 40-foot chassis is initially being offered in six different paint schemes, each model is said to feature razor sharp printing and painting. The first run will include: Evergreen (#27819), Hanjin (#27820), Hyundai (#27821), K-Line (#27822), Maersk (#27823), and Nedlloyd (#27824). Each 40-foot Chassis Two Pack retails for $19.98.

Athearn Inc., 2883 E. Spring St Ste 100, Long Beach, CA 90806; 310-763-7140; Fax: 310-763-7449; E-mail: athearn@athearn.com; www.athearn.com

US Yard Tractor coming to HO from Athearn

HO — Athearn has announced the December release of a yard tractor complete with new tooling. The tractor includes rubber tires, adjustable fifth wheel height, clear window glazing, photo-etched steps, and rear deck with separately applied interior details.

The HO-scale model will initially be available in six different paint schemes: white (#29100), Safety Yellow (#29101), BNSF (29102), CSX (#29103), Norfolk Southern (#29104), and Union Pacific (#29105). Each Yard Tractor retails for $24.98.

According to Athearn, the tractor will be suitable for use on layouts ranging from 1966 to the present.

Athearn Inc., 2883 E. Spring St Ste 100, Long Beach, CA 90806; 310-763-7140; Fax: 310-763-7449; E-mail: athearn@athearn.com; www.athearn.com

Mini Metals
THE NUMBER ONE LINE OF VEHICLES WITH MODEL RAILROADERS!
MINI METALS® VEHICLES ARE MADE SPECIFICALLY FOR MODEL RAILROADERS!
VISIT OUR WEB SITE TODAY FOR DETAILS... MINI METALS THEY'RE... "THE REAL THING!"™
CMW Holdings, Ltd. - 3401 Silica Road, Sylvania, OH 43560 - 419.842.8114
www.ClassicMetalWorks.com
CLASSIC METAL WORKS & MINI METALS are registered trademarks owned by CMW Holdings, Ltd - Dodge is a trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. Dodge Meadowbrook and its trade dress are used under license by CMW Holdings, Ltd. © Chrysler Group LLC 2009 - Ford Oval and nameplates are registered trademarks owned and licensed by Ford Motor Company Manufactured by CMW Holdings, Ltd.

• BUSCH • LILIPUT • GRAHAM FARISH • BRANCH-LINE • ROCO • MERTEN • PECO • WIKING • XURON • PREISER • HERPA •
IMPORTERS & DISTRIBUTORS OF WORLD CLASS MODELS
IMPORTERS & DISTRIBUTORS OF WORLD CLASS MODELS
Dodge Power Wagon Railroad Service Vechicles (MOW)
Now In Stock & Available for Shipping: 4401-UP, 4402-SF, 4404-NYC, 4408-SP, 4410-REA
ONLY $14.98
Directly from Models11 or your favorite dealer/distributor
Stock # Roadname
4401 Union Pacific
4402 Santa Fe
4403 Missouri Pacific
Stock # Roadname
4404 New York Central
4405 Pennsy
4406 MKT
1:87 HO Scale
Stock # Roadname
4407 Chicago & Northwestern
4408 Southern Pacific
Stock # Roadname
4409 New Haven
4410 Railway Express
More Roadnames will be added at a later date
Models11
Importers & Distributors of World Class Models
www.models11.com
Phone: 210-568-9271
DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED
• MODEL POWER • PROMOTEX • TRIDENT • BACHMANN CHINESE • NOCH • VOLLMER • CIRCUITRON • BRAWA • RICKO •

Craftsman Grade Products & Services
HO - S - O Scales Standard & Narrow Gauges
DCC • Sound • Figures • Track & Turnouts
Blackstone Models • Tichy • Banta Modelworks
<> <> New Products <> <>
RailMaster Hobbies - Bass Reflex Speakers
Blue Point™ Turnout Controller & Flex Link Kits
Syracuse, NY 11/7-8 • Allentown, PA 11/14-15
Marlborough, MA 12/5-6
Hours: M-F 8:30 - 4 pm + M-Tu-Th 6:30 - 9 pm (EST)
Special & Mail Orders - Credit Cards - Gift Certificates
Crusader
RAIL SERVICES
5920 Houghton St • Phila, PA 19128
215-482-7530 web: www.crusaderrail.com

REVIEW HO

The Industrial Steel Giant

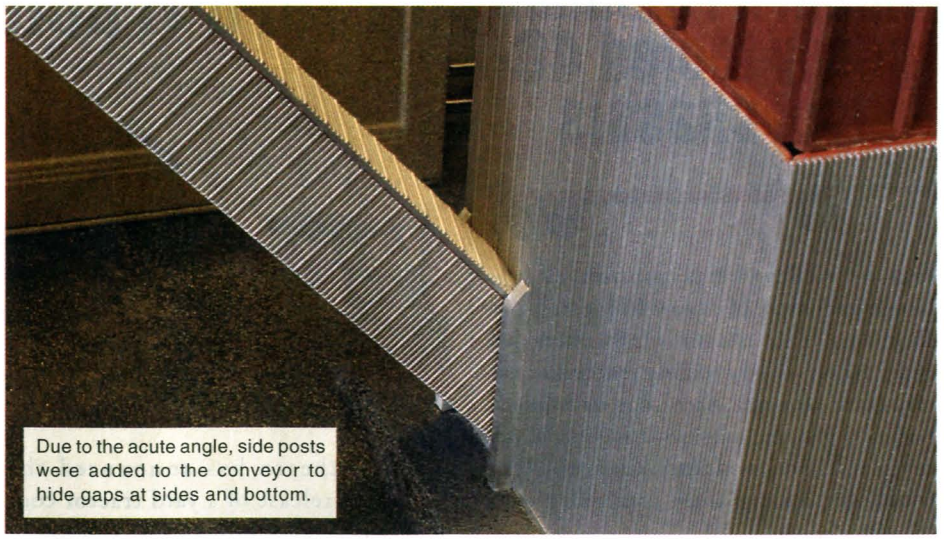
Walthers Cornerstone Series makes for one behemoth of a project

Review and Photos by Dick Foster

Cornerstone Coke Ovens & Quench Tower, HO scale (#933-2972), MSRP: $129.98
Footprint: 24.75 inches by 14.125 inches

Cornerstone Blast Furnace and Stoves, HO scale (#933-2973), MSRP: $239.98
Footprint: 27.25 inches by 17.125 inches

Walthers
P.O. Box 3039, Milwaukee, WI 53201
800-487-2467 • Fax: 800-807-2647
www.walthers.com



Due to the acute angle, side posts were added to the conveyor to hide gaps at sides and bottom.

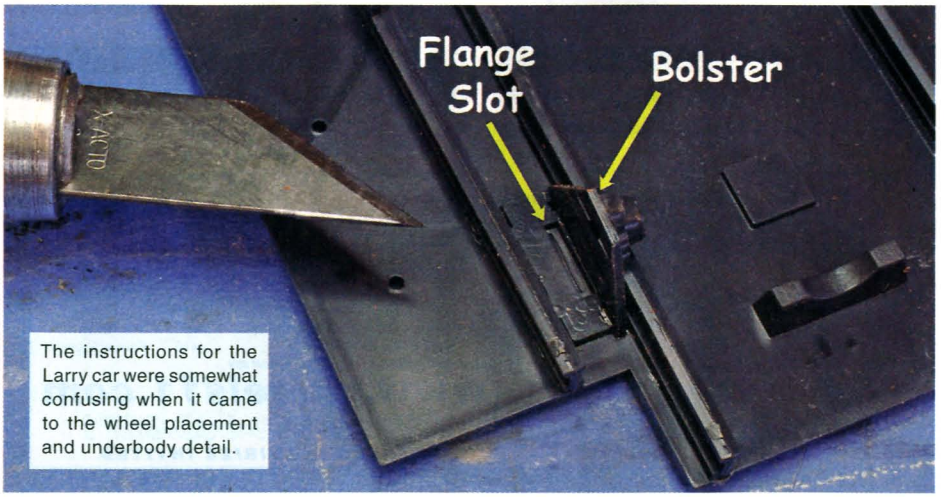
IRON AND STEEL are still the primary building material for many of the products that we buy and use on a daily basis — everything from automobiles to toasters and railroad cars and construction supplies and equipment. Iron and steel have been around for thousands of years and the technology wasn't even invented to provide temperatures and the production techniques that are common today in the steel industry. In the beginning, coke, a prime ingredient of the steelmaking process, was derived from charcoal, but as suitable supplies of wood ran out, new processes had to be developed using coal and heat to bake out the impurities in coal to produce coke. In its most basic sense, the process isn't much different today.

About 35 operating mills are all that remain of the once-mighty U.S. steel industry. It has been one of the most photographed and written-about industries, due to the spectacular displays of molten iron and steel ingots, along with massive machines, and elaborate blast furnaces and finishing mills.

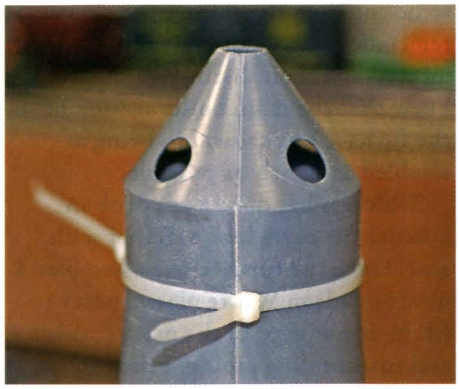
A few modelers have spent the time and money to replicate, in fine detail, some parts of an operating steel mill. The Walthers kit, as an example, is based on a series of "how-to" articles written by Dean Freytag in *Model Railroader* magazine in 1991. Often though, the space requirements and the lack of well-detailed kits have been a big deterrent to making a credible steel mill scene. A few years ago, Walthers offered a number of component kits for a complete mill scene. The release of the "Ashland Iron and Steel Mill" kits have brought the steel mill model to a new level. Not only are the fundamental structures such as blast furnaces, hot roll mills, and other support buildings available, but new items such as the Huellett unloading crane, and the various specialty hot metal and bottle cars are part of this excellent release.

Since I knew ahead of time that I would be building and reviewing several of the kits that make up the basic mill, I decided to build each kit on a separate module which then could be arranged in several ways to form the complete mill scene. Also it would help reduce the large amount of space the Ashland Mill required while I was building the kits. Roadbed and track then could be laid to fit the scene, but I quickly came to realize that sometimes the modules could be placed end to end and sometimes they would fit behind each other. In any case you need a sizable space to do justice to these excellent models.

I feel that the size footprint for the Coke Oven, as printed, was a bit small to accommodate the coal conveyors as designed. The modules needed to be light and sturdy, since some of the structures are sizable and somewhat top heavy. I looked for 1-inch foam at my local Lowe's but couldn't find the type that I needed. I finally settled on half-inch foam board from an art supply store. I used 1-inch by 2-inch poplar straight-grained wood for the basic frame, and built it much like a picture frame with several cross-braces. For the ground cover layer, I decided to use Woodland Scenics "Super Track" 12 x 24 black foam sheets. This was definitely a dirty and dusty operation. Once I had the basic 20 x 30 module base finished, it was time to move on to the Coke Oven kit.



The instructions for the Larry car were somewhat confusing when it came to the wheel placement and underbody detail.



As mentioned in the text, it is important to have a tight fit on the blast furnace. I used a long cable tie as a clamp to hold the blast furnace halves together while the glue dried.

The thin base plates made the girder/brick columns hard to keep vertical while the glue dried. I used a square to keep everything at the proper angle.

Before You Start

I can't stress enough the need to read through the instructions before starting this or any kit. It is quite a formidable array of plastic castings and parts, over 20 large sprues, but Walthers has identified the "Larry Car" and "Quench Car" plastic sprues by number, which helped with so many small and detailed parts. I settled on Testor's Liquid Plastic cement to use for most gluing applications along with CA Maxi Glue and Faller cement for certain parts. I also devoted a small-tipped paintbrush to use as the glue applicator, instead of the built-in bottlebrush. I felt that I had more control using the brush on some of the more delicate parts and had less chance of glue running where it wasn't supposed to go!

I also studied the various photos of the kits that I found on the Internet, and sprayed or airbrushed the various subassemblies appropriate colors, as I went along. It takes longer to paint each part as you go, but in the end the overall effect is worth it. I felt it would be too difficult to try and mask and paint many of the intricate ladders, girders, panels, and piping after they were installed.

Be careful and remember that these pieces will have to be glued together and plastic glue doesn't make a great bond with painted surfaces. I tried in all cases to scrape or sand the end to be glued or in the case of many substructures, glued the whole thing together and then painted and weathered the subassembly. In terms of painting I used just a few basic colors — rust primer from a shake-and-rattle can, along with light and dark gray primers and an off-color tan and Poly Scale Aged Concrete for the concrete surfaces. Weathering was accomplished using an airbrush and Grimy Black Poly Scale water-based paint. Highlights of rust and other "earth tones" completed the weathering of the main structures.

Building the Mill

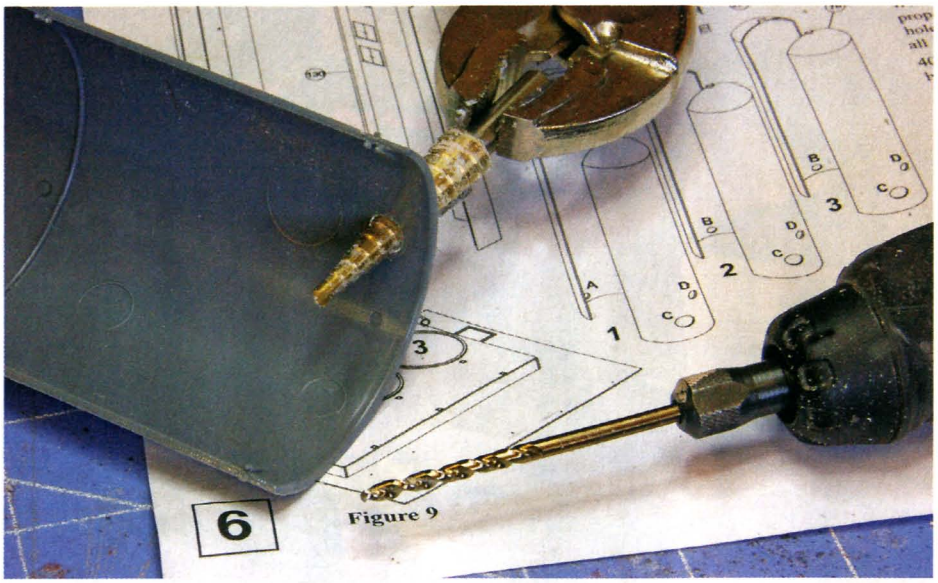
In general, I followed the printed instructions and only deviated when I felt that an easier or more efficient step could be used. As an example, on the collector pipe on top of the coke ovens there are 18 right-angle pipes from the collector pipe to the oven inlets. The instructions say to assemble the pipe and then glue a right-angle pipe at each end and in the middle and snap in the rest. I tried this and found that some of the other right-angle pipes (made from three parts), didn't always fit properly; therefore, I lightly glued them all to the collector pipe and then aligned each one into its proper fitting and applied a final brush of glue and let capillary action draw the glue into the joints. To me, this saved much frustration and produced the required result.

Be careful: I found several numbers incorrect and one drawing showed the conveyor entry port on the wrong side of the coke tower. Minor problems, yes, but they could be a problem for the modeler who isn't paying attention.

In most cases, I used clamps to hold the various parts together while they dried. I found several long wall sections were slightly warped and clamping them while the glue dried removed any problems which might cause subsequent assembly steps to get out of line. The stairs at the end of the coke oven were especially tricky and required some patience and attention to the directions but, in the end, the result was a neat detail. I can see looking further ahead that the blast furnace has a number of stairways, which always look great, but will require skill and patience to assemble, as I later found out. I assembled the tall chimney-stack and glued it into place at the end of the coke oven. I feel that a piece of thicker styrene cut and glued around the top of the stack would improve its looks in terms of making it look thicker and more rugged in appearance.

The two tipples on the coke mill kit are identical and quite easy to put together. In the case of both, I painted the corrugated metal parts with Tamiya T-30 Silver color. This was done before assembling the roofs and bottom of the coal grinder tipple. The other parts were then sprayed with a brown rusty-looking color and after drying both tipples were assembled. I feel that the top roof sections on both tipples could be slightly longer to produce an overhang of the roof — more of a cosmetic correction rather than anything else. The larger lower roof sections have an appropriate amount of overhang. Finally, the tipples were slightly weathered with an airbrush and grimy black color.

As I indicated earlier, the base I built for the coke oven kit, although larger than what was called for in the footprint, could not handle the angle of the conveyor housing from the crusher to



A step drill was used to cut the holes in the sides of the stoves on the blast furnace module.

the coke input bunker. As shown in the first photo, I did a little cutting and filing and added an extra roof piece to cover the otherwise, unprototypical gap at the entry into the bunker. I think the end result is okay but I would consider four or five more inches in length for the conveyor assembly or move the coke oven unit further away. This was the only real snag in laying out and assembling the whole kit.

The Larry & Quenchers

I then moved on to the Larry and quencher cars. Both were fairly straightforward, especially if you have ever built any freight cars from kits. As shown, the wheel assembly for the Larry car was somewhat confusing and could easily be assembled backward if not careful. On the quencher car several of the longer pieces were slightly bowed and required additional clamping to insure they fitted properly. I found the same issue in some of the other big parts on the blast furnace kit, but usually extra care in gluing and clamping took care of the problem.

The Furnace

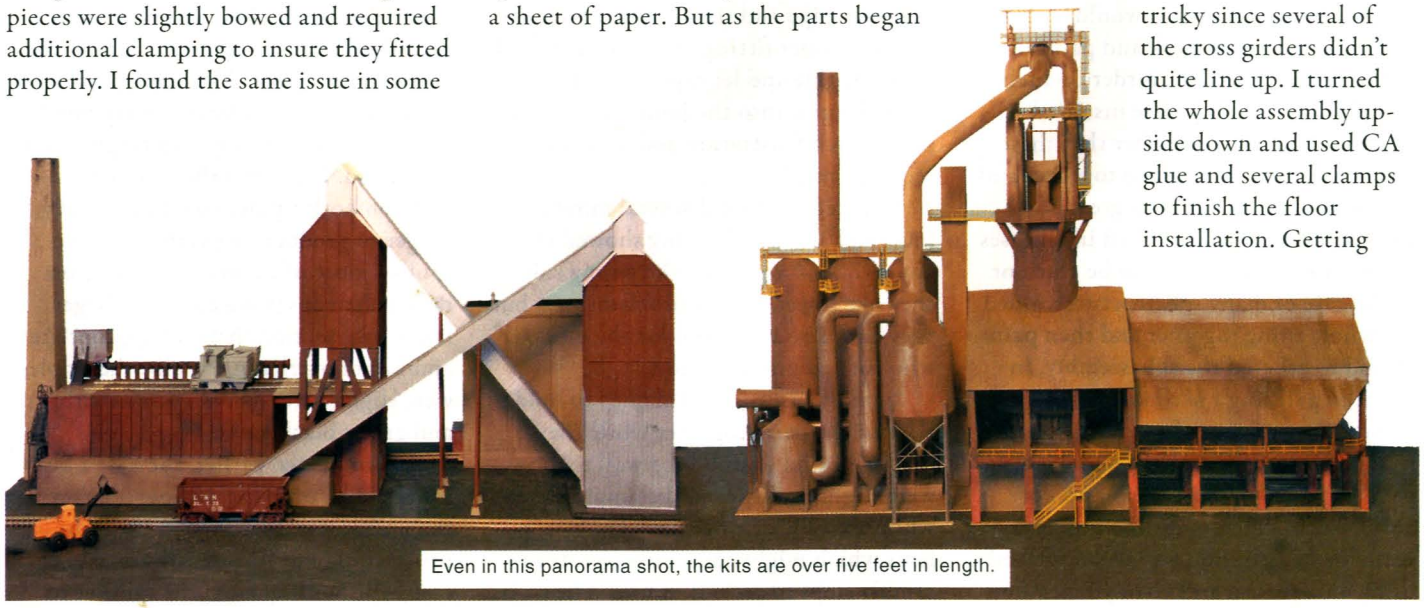
Once I finished the coke ovens and associated buildings, I proceeded to the daunting task of assembling the blast furnace. I found the introduction to the kit was most informative and helped in understanding how a furnace works, which made the kit go together more easily for me, and was a good learning experience.

Just to show the complexity of the kit, the first page with about 17 steps took about 6 to 7 hours to assemble. The biggest problem was identifying the parts and finding the proper sprue. At one point I almost decided to take each sprue and list all the part numbers on a sheet of paper. But as the parts began to be cut from the sprues, you slowly remember where the various parts are located and their distinctive shapes. I knew that the main boiler section of the furnace was critical in being assembled as tightly as possible.

Walthers has done a good job in making the parts lock together with ease. Once the furnace was assembled I used Squadron White plastic putty to fill in minor gaps in the main furnace and surrounding piping. I then gave the whole structure a coat of medium tan and then followed up with weathering using browns and rust color on the boiler and substructure. Again, it is more time-consuming to paint the subassemblies as you go along, but the results are, in my opinion more realistic than some models I have seen sprayed with a solid color.

The main building to house the blast furnace was next on the assembly instructions. A little care should be taken here to insure that the brick substructures around the steel girders are square and straight. I used a carpenter's tool and several clamps to insure the substructure dried in a vertical position. After completing one foundation piece I hit upon the idea of forming the "brick" boxes and then inserting them over the steel girders. Overall this worked much better for me.

One suggestion would be to make the foundation strip thicker so the girders have a better foundation and the whole subassembly is sturdier. Once the foundation was built, the floor for the blast furnace was painted and put into place. This was somewhat tricky since several of the cross girders didn't quite line up. I turned the whole assembly upside down and used CA glue and several clamps to finish the floor installation. Getting



Even in this panorama shot, the kits are over five feet in length.

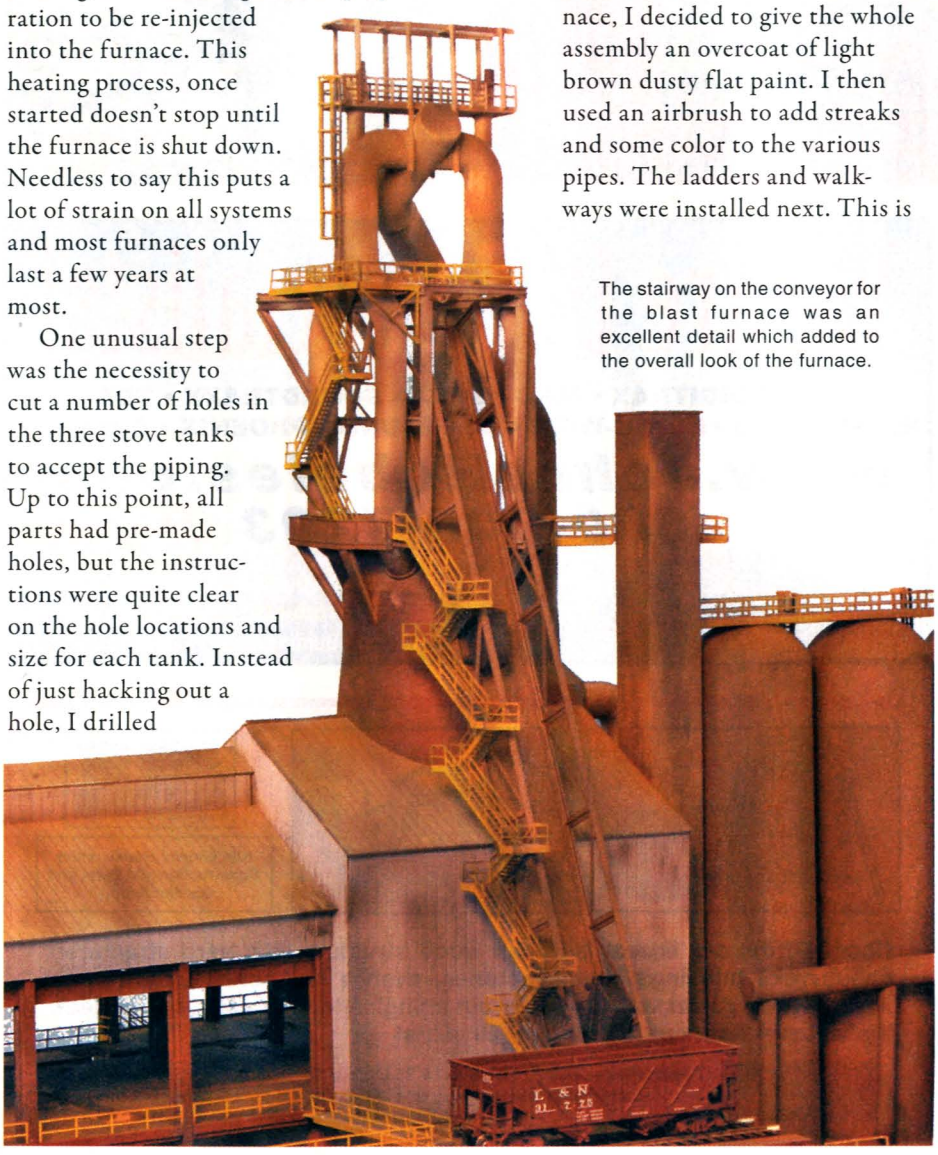
the furnace to fit into the precast hole presented a problem in the sense that the furnace didn't retain its exact shape from a previous "fitting" session. A little grinding with a Dremel cutter on the floor base fixed the problem, and the furnace was securely glued in place with CA cement.

One note here: be sure the two arrows on the furnace and mantle ring line up, otherwise the mantle pipe and elevator walkway will not line up correctly. Don't ask how I know, but a little moving of one fence fixed the problem. I decided to leave off the front short wall on the furnace section so the whole furnace could be seen, since a lot of time and effort went into its construction.

From here, I began assembling the various tanks, pipes, walks, and ladders that comprised the stove sections of the blast furnace. After gases escape the furnace, they are returned to a cleaning, cooling, and reheating area, in preparation to be re-injected into the furnace. This heating process, once started doesn't stop until the furnace is shut down. Needless to say this puts a lot of strain on all systems and most furnaces only last a few years at most.

One unusual step was the necessity to cut a number of holes in the three stove tanks to accept the piping. Up to this point, all parts had pre-made holes, but the instructions were quite clear on the hole locations and size for each tank. Instead of just hacking out a hole, I drilled a small pilot hole through the center of the cast on the "hole locator" circle. Then I used a taper drill clamped in a pair of lockjaw pliers to ream out the hole to the proper diameter. In this way, I prevented an uneven hole edge or the possibility of cracking the plastic tank. I kept the holes slightly undersized until it was time of insert the pipes, and then just a minor extra amount of reaming produced a clean, tight fit. I wish the there were a key way or some orienting-type tab to precisely place the three tanks. Not only do the holes in the back of the tank have to line up, which wasn't difficult, but the front "C" and "D" holes had to match up with six holes on the clean gas main line and the hot blast main line. This didn't work out perfectly, but with a minor amount of grinding with the trusty Dremel, things went together fairly well.

Looking at the various pictures of the oven section of the blast furnace, I decided to give the whole assembly an overcoat of light brown dusty flat paint. I then used an airbrush to add streaks and some color to the various pipes. The ladders and walkways were installed next. This is probably the most tedious and painstaking part of the whole kit. I decided for the ladders and walkways on the three ovens to build the whole assembly for each tank first then install them on the walkway which would insure they are all at the same height. Again, be sure to remove any paint where glue is used to attach the parts together. The yellow paint on the hand rails is probably the toughest paint to get to cover the rails, but I figured that after a few years of operation the paint would be dull and not covering everything completely — A modelers license!



The stairway on the conveyor for the blast furnace was an excellent detail which added to the overall look of the furnace.

Final Touches

Once all the pipes, ladders, and stairs were connected and the bucket hoist installed, the blast furnace was essentially finished and could take its place next to the coke ovens. Some minor clamping and pushing during assembly, was to be expected considering the size of some of the parts and the plastic did some minor twisting and flexing. But, as I said, if you take your time the whole kit goes together very well.

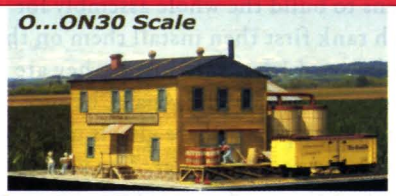
Overview

In looking back over this extended kit-building period, the results justify, in my mind, all the work that went into the assembly. Walthers should be complemented on producing a great updated and revised version of their earlier steel mill kit. I didn't find any missing parts or obvious errors in the instructions, other than those that have already been noted.

Above all else, don't be intimidated by the sheer number of parts in either kit. If you take your time and double-check each step, you will be rewarded with an outstanding model. By all means, don't try to cram these kits into a small space; they're big and need some space around them to set off the scene. I have yet to build the other kits in the series, but I am sure they are of the same high caliber.

It would be nice if there were some additional color photos included to help in some of the more complex steps and provide a little more direction for color selections other than what is printed on the box. But in the end, hats off to Walthers for providing the HO modeler with a complex and fascinating industry, which could become the focal point of a whole layout.

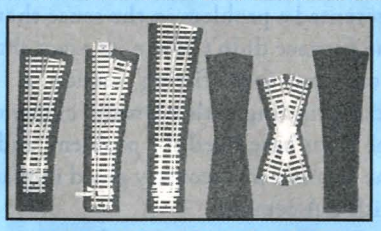
SIDETRACK LASER
HO & O Scale Laser Cut Model RR Kits



Crazy Horse Brewing Company
Laser Cut Kit $168.95
www.sidetracklaser.com
PO Box 447 Newberg, Oregon 97132
503-449-5361
DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME

CORK ROADBED SWITCH PADS
- PRE-CUT & BEVELED
- FITS ALL POPULAR TRACK O, HO, TT, HOm, N, Z

Single Track Strip Cork Also Available For Z & TT



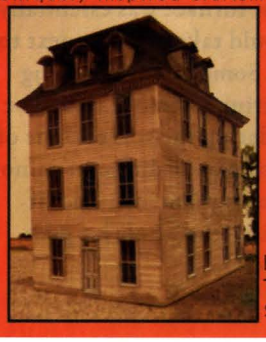
IBL Itty Bitty Lines
OUR 22ND YEAR
IBL PRODUCTS
(262) 675-6220
www.IBLProducts.com

NICK & NORA DESIGNS
Uniquely inspired craftsman kits

HO Scale Craftsman Kits

Kit ST002
The Crab Shack
$49.95

Check our website for other kits and future releases!

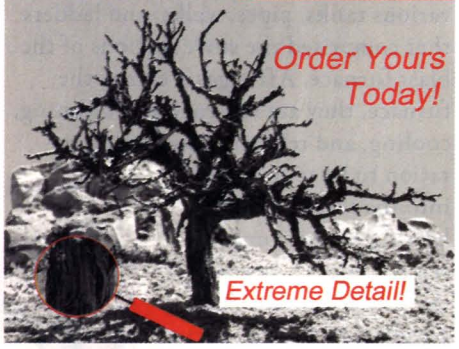


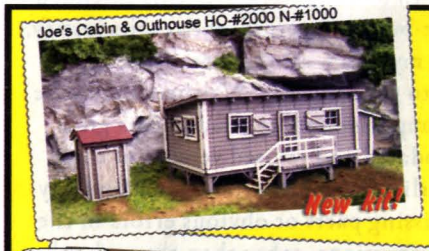
Kit ST004
The Haunted House
$160.00

Kit ST003
Baker's Row
$79.95

12 Penny Lane; Newark, DE 19702
www.nickandnoradesigns.com

NEW! **Timberline Scenery**
Highly Detailed Real Wood Tree Armatures!
Call 1-800-326-0321 or Visit Us @ www.timberlinescenery.com





Our 16th year of providing you with laser-cut structures, laser-cut rooftop billboards, hiway signs, storefront & billboard signs and frames, graffiti decals and more in HO & N scales. All Blair Line kits are made in the USA.

See your dealer, our website or request our catalog.
Blair Line, LLC
Dept. 566, PO Box 1136, Carthage, MO 64836
www.blairline.com

We Are DCC Specialists!
NCE • DIGITRAX • MRC • LENZ • SOUNDTRAXX • TCS
REVOLUTION • *NEW* G-WIRE • LOKSOUND • PHOENIX • AIR-WIRE
www.JohnsHobbies.com
800-800-7203
Everything Discounted
JohnsHobbies.com
Be Sure To Check Our Web Site For
Weekly Specials • New Products • Show Schedule
1507 SE 150th St • Summerfield, FL 34491

STS SERIES
SMALL TRACTABLE STRUCTURES
Kits shown: House under Construction and Farm and Garden Supply

Choose from our line of laser-cut wood structure kits: yard structures, commercial buildings, small factories, even a half-constructed house! And we have pre-assembled laser-cut shingles to complete your project. We've been laser-cutting for over 20 years!

North Eastern Scale Models Inc
Dept. MRRN 609 Entler Ave. # 3 Chico, CA 95928 Tel. 530-896-0801
Call for our free catalog or visit us online at: www.nesm.com
Email: info@nesm.com

First look at CVMW's N-scale bridge

N — Central Valley Model Works is offering an easy-to-assemble Styrene truss bridge kit. The bridge is said to assemble easily. As this is CVMW's first available bridge in N-scale, they are offering a special intro price of $24.95. The bridge (#1810) will be featured more in-depth in our December issue.

Central Valley Model Works, 1203 Pike Ln, Oceano, CA 93445; 805 489-8586; Fax: 805 489-0514; E-mail: jeff@cvmw.com; www.cvmw.com

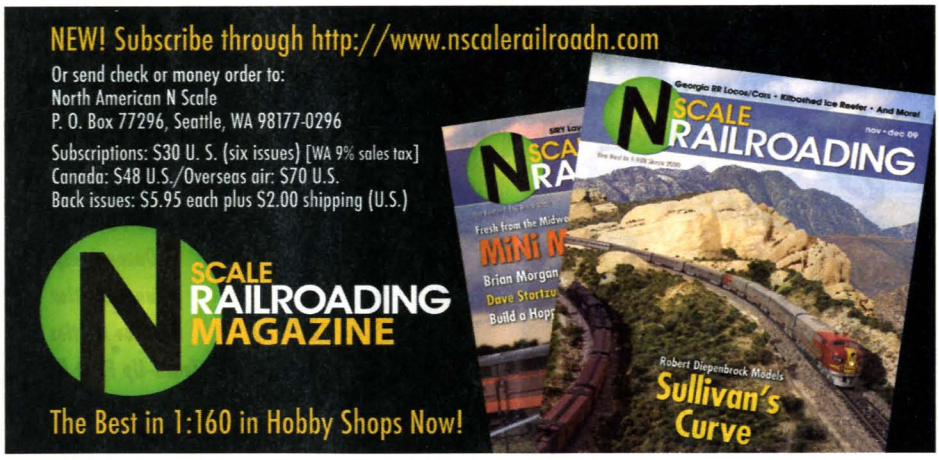
Historic mill kit from Mountaineer Precision Products

Mountaineer Precision Products' Magnolia Flouring Mill background kit gives the illusion of a large, working industry while only using a minute amount of space.

HO — Mountaineer Precision Products has announced the release of their new Magnolia Flouring Mill structure kit. This piece of Magnolia history is designed to be a background flat building and includes laser-cut plywood walls, windows, a stacked stone foundation, plastic chimneys, and roof vents. The 3-1/2-story building is punctuated by 9 over 6 double hung windows. The kit also features water slide decals and detail printed signs. The background design is great for those cramped areas of your layout in need of a historic touch. The Magnolia Flouring Mill (#401HO) retails for $69.98.

Also know as Elson's Flouring Mill, the mill was originally built in 1834 by Richard Elson as part of the railway line in the town of Magnolia, Ohio. The mill was strategically located on the Sandy and Beaver Canal. The railroad ran through the town of Magnolia and its station was located behind the mill. While the Sandy and Beaver Canal was flourishing, so was the Magnolia Flouring Mill. Easy access to the two modes of transportation allowed the sustained success of the mill. Remnants of the canal exist, and the old railroad station remains behind the mill, acting as a warehouse. The mill itself still stands and operates today as a feed mill.

Mountaineer Precision Products, 6166 Ridgewood Court, Florence, KY 41042; 859-283-5186; Fax: 859-818-0422; E-mail: mppmodels@fuse.net; www.mpp-models.com


NEW! Subscribe through http://www.nscalerailroadn.com
Or send check or money order to:
North American N Scale
P. O. Box 77296, Seattle, WA 98177-0296
Subscriptions: $30 U. S. (six issues) [WA 9% sales tax]
Canada: $48 U.S./Overseas air: $70 U.S.
Back issues: $5.95 each plus $2.00 shipping (U.S.)
SCALE RAILROADING MAGAZINE
The Best in 1:160 in Hobby Shops Now!
SCALE RAILROADING
Sullivan's Curve

Looking for a developer for Main Street?
Check out our S scale Structures...
Cruising Main Style 1 series
Mix & match to meet your layout needs
Cruising Main Style 2 series
New! Firehouse/Garage
New! Professional Building
Pine Canyon Scale Models
See our web site for more information
www.pinecanyonscalemodels.com
167 Westford St., Dunstable, MA 01827
Phone 978-735-2138

Roadside Sunset Motel kit from Blair Line

N & HO — Blair Line has released a new N- and HO-scale kit perfect for those long stretches of highway along your layout: The Sunset Motel. This kit is based on the classic designs of American roadside motels built and operated in the 1950s through the 1970s.

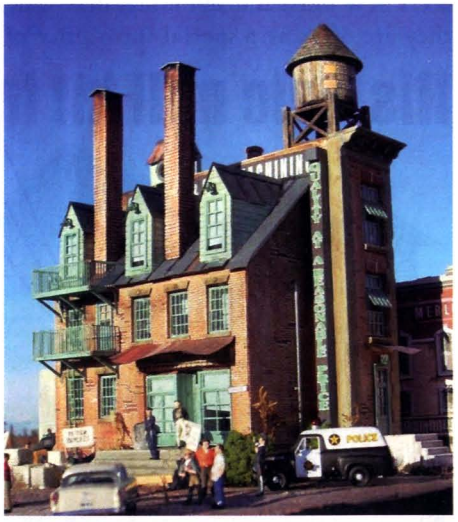
The new Sunset Motel is being offered in N- and HO-scale. The roadside establishment would be at home on most 1950s- to 1970s-era layouts.

The motel office includes tab and slot walls for easy assembly, a driveway canopy, and laser-cut peel-n-stick windows, doors, roofing, and trim. Details include the "motel" rooftop sign, a soda pop machine, laser-etched sidewalks and curb, and optional flagstone wainscot. The motel units feature four identical room structures with tab and slot clapboard walls, roof, and floor (scribed material used for N scale). Easy assembly details feature peel-n-stick doors, windows, gable vents, and trim. Also included with each kit is an eye catching "Sunset Motel" sign to complete the structure.

The N-scale kit (#1001) measures 2.62 inches by 1.8 inches for the office building and 3.5 inches by 1.5 inches for each motel unit. It retails for $43.95. The HO-scale Sunset Motel kit (#2001) has a footprint of 5 inches x 3.31 inches for the office and 6.5 inches x 2.75 inches for the units; it retails for $65.95. Please add $5.00 shipping for direct orders.

Blair Line, P.O. Box 1136, Carthage, MO 64836-6136; 417-359-8300; Fax: 417-359-8844; E-mail: rush@ecarthage.com; www.blairline.com

New Structure Kit from Downtown Deco



HO — Downtown Deco's newest HO-scale kit, "Gugisberg & Sons Machining" is an imposing three-story building that will be right at home on layouts ranging from the late 1800s through the modern era.

Each kit features detailed hydrocal casting, full-color signs, and plastic Tichy doors and windows. Also included is a laser-cut water tower, Paper Creek rusty corrugated material, and cobblestone street castings; as well as complete painting and aging instructions. The finished kit has a footprint of 5 inches by 8 inches, which allows the building to be placed in more cramped areas of a layout. Kit building skills are recommended. The "Gugisberg & Sons Machining" kit retails for $99.95 with $10.00 S&H on direct orders.

Downtown Deco, 5323 Fiddler Ct., Florence, MT 59833-6905; Phone/Fax; 406-273-0942; E-mail: downtowndeco@montana.com; www.downtowndeco.com

The Weather May Be Frightful...
Use Scalecoat & Your Next Paint Project Will Be Delightful!
Scalecoat Paint
MADE IN THE USA
72 Colors Available plus 6 Weatherization Colors!
Call Today For A Color Chip Chart!
"We do the work for you!"
6 Ounce Spray
1 Ounce Bottles
2 Ounce Bottles
Touch-Up Paint Pens
SCALECOAT MODEL PAINT • PO Box 231 • Northumberland • PA • 17857 • Phone: 570-473-9434 • Fax: 570-473-3293
www.weavermodels.com ~ e-mail: customerservice@weavermodels.com ©2009 Weaver Models ~ Not Responsible For Typographical Errors!

Laser-cut Plywood kits
HO-Scale Maintenance Detail Kit
Kit No. 1299 * MSRP $36.99
Includes 25 built-up details plus banding & straps and more
Made in USA
See all of GCLasers' Z, N, HO, S and O-Scale Kits at www.gclaser.com
GCLaser
P.O. Box 621 · Genoa City, WI 53128
815.354.6627 · Fax 262.279.6627 · www.gclaser.com

It's not just a model, it's a piece of history.
OVER 50 QUALITY KITS TO CHOOSE FROM!
Check out our website for our complete line of HO structures. We also manufacture scratch builder's supplies such as peel and stick shingles in N, HO, and O scales and cast pewter detail parts. Write for a FREE fully illustrated color catalog.
BEST
Bollinger Edgerly Scale Trains
375 Bean Hill Road
Belmont, NH 03220
603.267.1818
www.besttrains.com

Orange Vista
Packing House
HO Kit #8407 – 17" x 4 1/2" foot print
20 detail items, 2 billboards, mat board, wood, cast metal and plastic.
Alpine Division Scale Models, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 6, Artesia CA 90702
www.alpinemodels.com

NEW Woodland Classics™

A New Economical Line of Trees, Handcrafted in Fine Detail

· Ready-Made & Suitable for Multiple Scales ·
· More Than 40 Tree Choices ·
· Mix and Blend Several Types for Superior Realism ·

WOODLAND SCENICS® www.woodlandscenics.com

Purchase at your local hobby shop.

REVIEW Book

Trains of the Canadian West

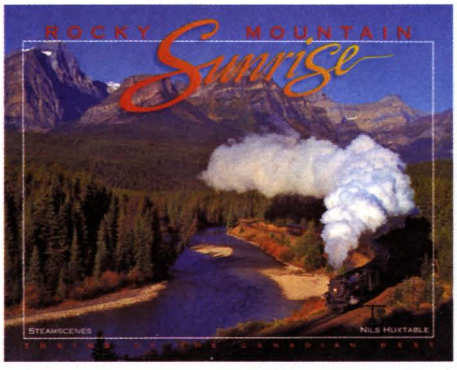
Nils Huxtable and Steamscenes create another visual treat for the railfan

Review and Photos by John Sipple

Rocky Mountain Sunrise, MSRP: US$49.95

Steamscenes
2254 Lawson Ave.
West Vancouver B.C.
Canada, V7V 2E4
604-926-3473 • Fax: 604-926-3332

Tiptoeing across the snowy trestle near Fisherman's Cove, British Columbia Railway's Alco C-628 leads a freight through a snowstorm in a picture that is ripe for a Chirstmas card.



PHOTOGRAPHER/author/publisher Nils Huxtable further pinpoints the theme of his newest book *Rocky Mountain Sunrise* with the subtitle: *Trains of the Canadian West*. Even if you live in the Canadian West, you might not have seen these particular views or appreciate the geographic complexity of the subject area. It takes time and study to fully admire the three westernmost provinces (but not territories) of Canada: British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, understanding the historical and contemporary value of railroads there.

Every railroad crossing of the Rocky Mountains is a major undertaking that demands a lot to create and even more to maintain. How do you approach the crossings of Canadian Pacific and Canadian National? You have two basic approaches. The first is obviously factual, a treatise on grades, helper districts, the locomotives required, the facilities located along the line, and the way all this is organized and operated. The second approach is visual. Beyond captions to guide you, some text to orient you, and a map inside the cover to direct you, the photos tell the story, showing the equipment, the land, and the people.

This last approach is classic for Nils Huxtable, known throughout the world for his beautiful calendars each year, created by assembling the finest of photos, some by him and as many by others. As you turn the pages of the book, picture after picture is a masterpiece treat for the eye. The form is a landscape 11 by 8-1/2 inch hardbound with a dustcover. Wearing ISBN 978-0-9810812-0-5, the 112-page book is printed on heavy coated paper.

Featured are passenger trains such as *The Canadian*, *Super Continental*, *Royal Canadian Pacific*, *Cariboo Prospector*, *Rocky Mountaineer*, *Whistler Mountaineer*, *American Orient Express*, and the *E&N's Dayliner*. Freight operators are there, too, including CPR, CNR, BC Rail, NAR, Southern Railway of B.C., and Alberta RailnNet. Visit the Fraser and Thomson River Canyons, Rogers and Kicking Horse Passes, the Kootenay Central, the Crowsnest, Tumbler Ridge, the Kettle Valley, the Yellowhead Route, the Laggan Sub, and much more.

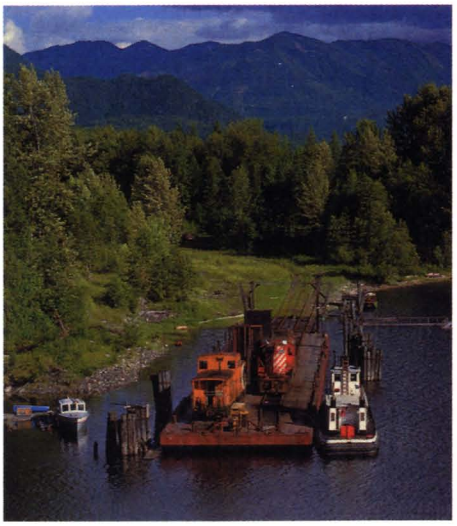
As an additional touch, the book appears to use a glossy spot varnish over every photo, a wonderful technique. Essentially, this seals the image from fingerprints and gives it a constant reflectance, similar to how a photographic print appears. Adding to this effect is the screening. Most printing uses line screening which has all of the tiny dots in predictable rows. In this case, it looks like a stochastic screen, which is made of computer-generated dots in unpredictable patterns, more like the small grain in a high-resolution color photographic print. The overall effect is one of very high quality. This is one of the best print jobs I've ever seen.

A Visual Treat

There are many scenes in *Rocky Mountain Sunrise* that are worthy of consideration when you plan your layout's landscaping. However, this book is better off where everyone in the house can enjoy it. From the deep greens of British Columbia to the mountain vistas of Alberta and into the prairie views of Saskatchewan, we also get to see Western Canadian railroading from steam to diesel.

Railroading is a rich tradition in the Canadian West, and the photos reveal everything from the British Columbia Railway (BC Rail), now a part of CN, to the *Whistler Mountaineer*. The former is represented by a trio of Buddliners while the latter is shown being led by an F-unit. Both are in spectacular scenery. Later, we get to see BCOL's Alco C630s working a trestle on a snowy day, a Roger Burrows shot that belongs on a Christmas card.

Ashcroft, B.C and the Thompson River area nearby are as close to desert as you'll find in Canada. A double-page layout celebrates the barren landscape with a long sulfur train snaking by the river through Black Canyon. There are many techniques involved in good photography,



No longer in operation, the Slocan Lake Ferry delivers engine, caboose, and a single bulkhead flat car to the ferry slip. This is a scene that screams: "Model me!" CP abandoned the British Columbia line in 1988, so this 1987 James Speaker photo is a wonderful record of it.

and they are all used very well in this book. Framing elements draw your eye into some images while others are testaments to superb lighting.

Sometimes you can get perfect composition in the shape of a color slide, but sometimes cropping is an essential part of good composition. While many of these images appear in their full horizontal or vertical format because the photographer found a scene that would yield to that, others have been cropped to give the image greater power and presence.

However, all that is shop talk among lensmen. The shot of the Slocan, B.C. train/barge illustrates the value of high interest in all of the images. Seeing a loco, caboose, and a freight car on one small barge is something almost any layout could model. As railroad enthusiasts, our main reason for poking through an entire book is because the images pique our curiosity. In this book, there's a whole lotta piquin' goin' on!

Cover to cover

Rocky Mountain Sunrise belongs on your coffee table, there to be enjoyed by everyone. You don't have to be a train nut to enjoy this book, but it never hurts anything. Even those who aren't fans of trains will likely enjoy the color and stunning views presented in the pages. Top-notch photography is combined with the best of Canadian printing: this is a real object of quality. With the gift-giving season at hand, we have here a present for the entire household.

Two New Books for 2009
from Four Ways West Publications

MILWAUKEE ROAD LOCOMOTIVES
- Volume Three -
Alco, Baldwin, Fairbanks-Morse Diesel Locomotives

Ready during November!

This is the third volume of a set featuring Milwaukee Road Locomotives in-depth. There are many photographs, both color and black & white, featuring diesel locomotives built by Alco, Fairbanks-Morse, and Baldwin. This book is written by a retired Milwaukee Road engineer who worked very closely with all of these locomotive types. 160 pages!
by Thomas F. Strauss

Each Title = $59.95
Shipping U.S. = Free
Canada = $12 each
Foreign = $21 each

SOUTHERN PACIFIC'S SUNSET ROUTE
= A Color Pictorial =
by Tom Dill
Now Available!

Featuring SP's Pacific Lines' SUNSET and GOLDEN STATE ROUTES through the picturesque and hostile desert southeast from Los Angeles to El Paso and Tucumcari, NM. The era featured in this all-color 128-page volume is the last of steam and early diesel. Don't miss all the action!

SOUTHERN PACIFIC'S SUNSET ROUTE
- A Color Pictorial -

Still available: C&O Vol. 2; NYC 1-4; PRR 1-5; IC 1& 2; KCS; NH 1-3; NP 1 & 4-6; D&RGW; Pool Power West; SF in the Lone Star State; SP's San Joaquin Line; SP's Overland Rt; SP's Coast Line; SP's T&NO; RI 2 & 3; WP 1& 2; WC 1 & 2; RR of the Pine Tree State 1-2; Alco FA's; EMD's Cowl Units; CB&Q 1 & 2; CB&Q Pass. 1 & 2; SP Pass. 2; GN 3, 6, 7; GN Equipment 1 & 3, New England's Colorful Railroads

Four Ways West
PUBLICATIONS
14618 Valley View Ave - La Mirada, CA 90638-4351
Visa or MasterCard orders / Fax orders to: 714-521-5664
Phone orders to: 714-521-4259 (8 - 6 Pacific Time)
email orders to: fourwayswest@ca.rr.com
Visit our website: www.fourwayswest.com

JOHN RENDALL scale models DIVISION
QUALITY "CRAFTSMAN" WOOD KITS

BURNT RIVER MINE CO.

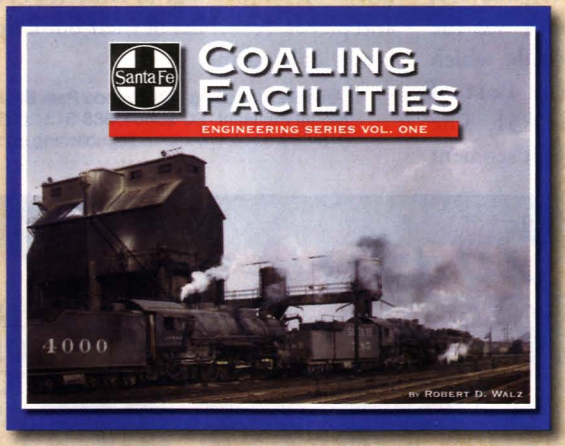
Scale 23' x 53'
FIGURE NOT INCLUDED
KIT #1019
N scale $28.98
CALIF. RESIDENTS ADD $2.83 FOR TAX
FREE USA SHIPPING
KIT #2019
HO scale $43.98
CALIF. RESIDENTS ADD $4.29 FOR TAX
FREE USA SHIPPING
KIT #4019
O scale $67.98
CALIF. RESIDENTS ADD $6.63 FOR TAX
FREE USA SHIPPING

40 TON COALING TOWER
Scale 16' x 16' x 65' H
HOPPER CAR NOT INCLUDED

KIT #2029
HO scale $33.98
CALIF. RESIDENTS ADD $3.31 FOR TAX
FREE USA SHIPPING

Catalog $2.00 (Refundable) Please State Scale
JV MODELS
SCALE KITS FOR THE DISCERNING MODELER
SINCE 1972
DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED
www.jv-models.com
P.O.Box 700 Artesia, CA 90702

New Book Series from Paired Rail



PASSION - PRESERVATION - PHOTOGRAPHY - PAPER
PRRP Ltd.

Santa Fe
RUSSELL LEE CRUMP
MEMORIAL ARCHIVE

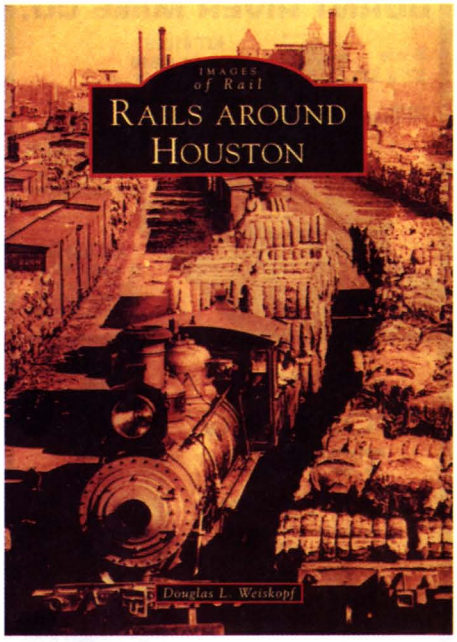
$24.95 64 pages B&W Softcover

PRRP 5106-A NW Waukomis Dr
Kansas City, MO 64151
Credit Card Orders: (888)740-6733
email: prrp@pairedrail.com

Please visit www.pairedrail.com to order with PayPal

Please add $3.00 S&H USPS - Dealer inquiries welcome Available Soon!

New Historical Book Delves into the History of Houston's Rails



BOOK — Arcadia Publishing has released a new addition to its line of Images of Rail books: *Rails Around Houston* by Doug Weiskopf. Weiskopf, a native of Houston and lifelong railroad history buff, is the author of several articles on Houston Railroading and is the chapter historian of the Gulf Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

The Republic of Texas chartered several railroads, but the first line built was the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado, which began construction near the Port of Houston Turning Basin in 1851. The BBB&C would become the oldest segment of the country's first transcontinental railroad under sole ownership: the Southern Pacific's Sunset Route, connecting New Orleans and Los Angeles, completed in 1883. By the time oil was discovered near Beaumont in 1901, Houston was such a transportation hub that it became the heart of the petrochemical industry. Houston saw narrow-gauge lines, two interurban lines, light rail, and even a monorail. For many years, the chamber of commerce proudly proclaimed that Houston was the place "where seventeen railroads meet the sea." More than 30 beautiful trains with names like *Sunset Limited*, *Sunbeam*, *Sam Houston Zephyr*, *Twin Star Rocket*, *Bluebonnet*, *Texas Rocket*, and *Texas Chief* would serve three depots.

Rails Around Houston features many unpublished photographs from the collection of the Houston Public Library's Houston Metropolitan Research Center and explores the more than 60 passenger trains that served Houston, giving access to most major cities in the United States. *Rails Around Houston* contains 128 pages. The softcover book retails for $21.99.

Arcadia Publishing publishes local and regional history in the United States. Their mission is to make history accessible and meaningful through the publication of books on the heritage of America's people and places. A full list of their book catalog is available online.

Arcadia Publishing, 420 Wando Park Blvd, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464; 888-313-2665; 843-853-0044; www.arcadiapublishing.com

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Requester Publications Only)

1. Publication Title	2. Publication Number	3. Filing Date
Model Railroad News	0 0 1 9 - 4 3 8	10/08/09
4. Issue Frequency	5. Number of Issues Published Annually	6. Annual Subscription Price (If any)
Monthly	12	$29.95

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): PO Box 1080, Merlin, OR 97532 — Contact Person: Karen Lindsay; Telephone (Include area code): 541-955-1096

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): 400 Gallice Rd, Merlin, OR97532

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)

Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): Michael. W. Lindsay, PO Box 803, Merlin, OR 97532

Editor (Name and complete mailing address): William Cawthon, 16927 Terrace Park Dr, Houston, TX 77085

Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address):

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
Michael. W. Lindsay	PO Box 803, Merlin, OR 97532

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box → ☒ None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. (Must be completed if the publication title shown in item 1 is a publication published and owned by a non-profit organization.) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: (Check one)

☐ a. Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months

☐ b. Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526-R, September 2006 (Page 1 of 3) (Instructions Page 3) PRIN TEQUALEVARA PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

13. Publication: Model Railroad News	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data: October 2009	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	16,600	14,950
b. Legitimate Paid and/or Requested Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail) (1) Individual Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541. (Include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing and Internet requests from recipient, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	8,644	8,163
(2) Copies Requested by Employers for Distribution to Employees by Name or Position Stated on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid or Requested Distribution Outside USPS®	2,335	2,075
(4) Requested Copies Distributed by Other Mail Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4)) ▶	10,979	10,238
d. Nonrequested Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail) (1) Nonrequested Copies Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include Sample copies, Requests Over 3 years old, Requests induced by a Premium, Bulk Sales and Requests including Association Requests, Names obtained from Business Directories, Lists, and other sources)	586	601
(2) Nonrequested Copies Distributed Through the USPS by Other Classes of Mail (e.g. First-Class Mail, Nonrequestor Copies mailed in excess of 10% Limit mailed at Standard Mail® or Package Services Rates)	0	0
(3) Nonrequested Copies Distributed Outside the Mail (Include Pickup Stands, Trade Shows, Showrooms and Other Sources)	50	0
e. Total Nonrequested Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), and (3))	636	601
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and e) ▶	11,615	10,839
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4, (page #3)) ▶	4,985	4,111
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	16,600	14,950
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by f times 100) ▶	95.00%	95.00%

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership for a Requester Publication is required and will be printed in the November 2009 issue of this publication.

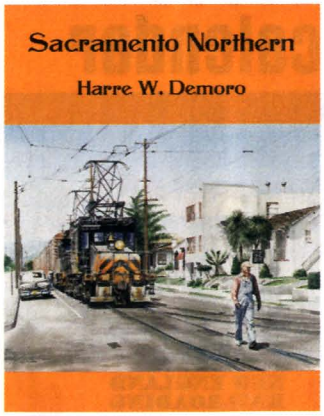
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Michael W. Lindsay, Publisher — Date: 10/08/09

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

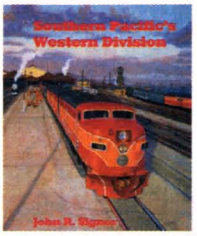
PS Form 3526-R, September 2006 (Page 2 of 3)

"A TRIPLE-PLAY IN "O" SCALE!"
"3" NEW "O"-SCALE KITS FROM THE FOLKS AT "BAR MILLS"!
THE LINE-UP....
1. "OLD MAN HART'S"
2. "OAKLEAF SHIPPING"
3. "FENSTER'S FARM FRESH"
Bar Mills SCALE MODEL WORKS
1
2
3
QUALITY CRAFTSMAN KITS FROM "BAR MILLS"
CALL OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PRICING & AVAILABILITY
www.barmillsmodels.com 207-929-3400

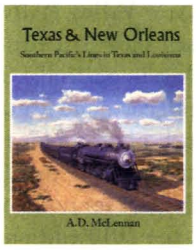
Excellent Books on Railroad History from Signature Press



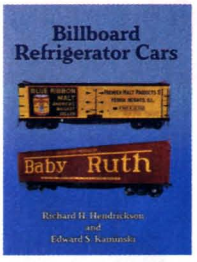
***Sacramento Northern*, Harre W. Demoro**
The Sacramento Northern, one of America's greatest interurbans, combined the Northern Electric and Oakland, Antioch & Eastern lines into a single, 185-mile route between San Francisco and Chico, California. In later years it was owned by the Western Pacific, for whom it was an important feeder. This masterful history by traction and rail authority Harre Demoro superbly documents the history, operations, and essential character of this railroad, including its freight services, in a fine new book.
354 pages, 467 photos, 19 maps and drawings, rosters, bibliography, index. **Price: $70**



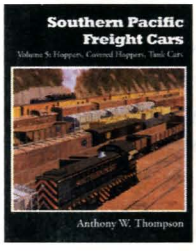
***Southern Pacific's Western Division*, John R. Signor**
Noted SP historian John Signor delivers the history of one of SP's busiest and most complex divisions, along with many details of operations.
416 pages, 711 photos (84 color), 23 maps, bibliography, index. **Price: $70**



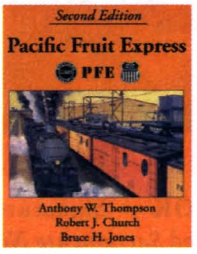
***Texas & New Orleans*, A.D. McLennan**
This long-needed history describes Southern Pacific's lines in Texas and Louisiana, from the 1850s to 1961, from El Paso to New Orleans, and many branches.
386 pages, 327 photos, 39 maps and drawings, bibliography, index. **Price: $70**



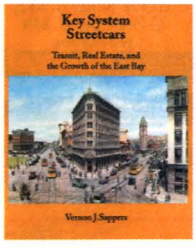
***Billboard Refrigerator Cars*, Richard H. Hendrickson, Edward S. Kaminski**
Long a subject of great interest but often misunderstood, among historians, railfans and modelers, the billboard era from the 1920s to the 1950s, deserves this full examination by the authors, expert freight car historians both.
224 pages, 440 photos, bibliography, index. **Price: $60**



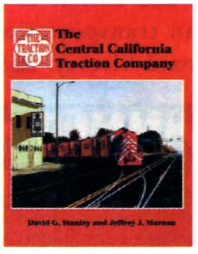
***Southern Pacific Freight Cars*, Volume 5, Anthony W. Thompson**
This volume completes a definitive series on the freight cars of this important railroad, covering gondolas and stock cars (Vol. 1), cabooses (Vol. 2), automobile and flat cars (Vol. 3), box cars (Vol. 4), and now presenting hoppers, covered hoppers and tank cars.
Volume 5: 448 pages, 578 photos (77 in color), 110 drawings, bibliography, index. **Price: $70**



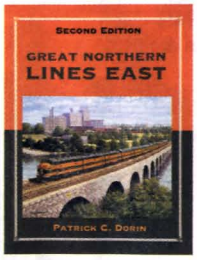
***Pacific Fruit Express* (2nd Edition), Thompson, Church & Jones**
The classic history of the world's largest refrigerator car owner and operator. This book has been described as the best ever written on freight cars.
472 pages, 744 photos (56 color), rosters, bibliography, index. **Price: $75**



***Key System Streetcars*, Vernon J. Sappers**
This long-awaited volume is a complete history of streetcar lines in the East Bay part of the San Francisco Bay Area, from 1869 to 1948. Extensive route descriptions, detailed equipment rosters, and superb historical photos of street scenes, are the core of the work.
480 pages, 778 photos, 47 maps, graphics, bibliography, index. **Price: $70**



***Central California Traction*, David G. Stanley and Jeffrey J. Moreau**
History and operations of "California's Last Interurban," from 1902 to present: a great little short line, still at work today.
410 pages, 626 photos, 22 maps and drawings, rosters, bibliography, index. **Price: $65**



***Great Northern Lines East*, Patrick C. Dorin**
The Great Northern was among America's most distinctive railroads. A revised, expanded and improved version of this classic GN book, with added color and a superb freight car chapter by authority Richard Hendrickson.
304 pages, 621 photos (54 color), index. **Price: $65**

see our web site for information on all our books

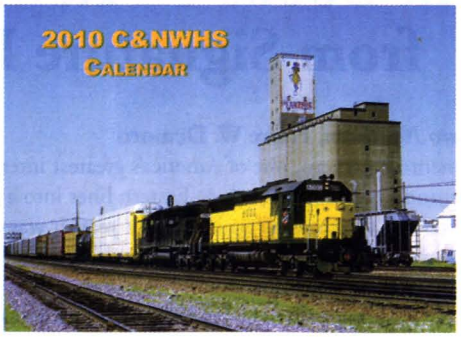
Free shipping, domestic individual orders ($25 shipping [$20 Canada] for foreign individual orders)
California residents add 8.75% sales tax per book.

SIGNATURE PRESS
Order securely at: **www.signaturepress.com**
or order direct: 11508 Green Rd, Wilton, CA 95693
PHONE ORDERS OR DEALER INQUIRIES TO:
1-800-305-7942

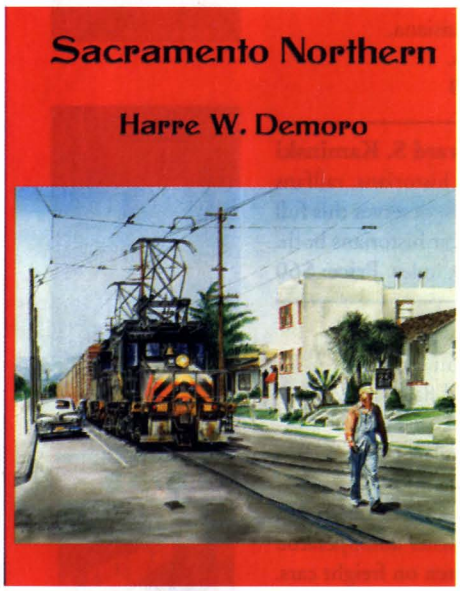
New 2010 C&NWHS 2010 calendar

CALENDAR — The Chicago & North Western Historical Society has released their all-color 2010 calendar, containing thirteen photos of C&NW, CGW, and M&StL diesel locomotives and trains. Individual copies are available for $12.00 (includes postage and handling).

Chicago & North Western Historical Society, P.O. Box 1068, North Riverside, IL 60546; www.cnwhs.org



Signature Press's Sacramento Northern Shines Light on Interurban Operations



BOOK — Signature Press recently released *Sacramento Northern* by Harre W. Demoro, a veteran Bay Area newspaperman and author of 11 other books on urban transportation, ferryboats, and railroad history. *Sacramento Northern* puts one of America's greatest interurban railways in the spotlight. At its peak, the line stretched 185 miles from San Francisco to Chico, California.

Sacramento Northern deals with more than trains and tracks — it sets the story in the context of its era, a time when California was emerging from the financial impact of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. The 352-page hardbound book traces the line's history from its beginnings in 1906 with the Northern Electric Railway lines north of Sacramento, California through the merger with UP in 1983. The book features over 470 photographs, most never before published. It also includes maps, drawings, detailed equipment history, and summaries of streetcar and freight services. *Sacramento Northern* (ISBN978-1-93001325-4) retails for $70.00.

Signature Press, 11508 Green Rd, Wilton, CA 95693-9736; 800-305-7942; Fax: 510-540-1937; E-mail: info@signaturepress.com; www.signaturepress.com

Mystic Valley releases 2010 calendar

2010 NEW ENGLAND RAILROADING CALENDAR

CALENDAR — Mystic Valley Railway Society, Inc. has released their 31st edition 2010 New England Railroading calendar. The calendar is printed in full color and features twelve 8-inch by 10-inch photos, plus two covers, all on card stock opening to a full 10-inch by 16-inch with space for notations.

Made in the USA, the 2010 edition includes scenes from Amtrak, Bay Colony Railroad, Berkshire Scenic Railway, Boston & Maine, Canadian Pacific, Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum, MBTA, Maine Central, Maine Eastern, Metro North Railroad, Providence & Worchester Railroad, and Vermont Rail System. The calendar retails for $6.00.

Mystic Valley Railway Society, Inc., P.O. Box 365486, Hyde Park, MA 02136-0009; 617-361-4445; www.mysticvalleyrs.org

ShelfTrax
www.shelftrax.com
• Precision milled
• NO brackets needed!!!
• High quality Solid Oak
• Grooved on top
• Custom sizing and colors available
HO & N per 6' $32,
O Scale per 6' $39
plus shipping
920-452-8945

MAMMOTHS OF THE BOXCAR WORLD!
These N scale 86' boxcars feature independent swinging draft gear and will do an 11" radius curve. Shipping now dbl door: Pennsy, PC ex-PRR, Frisco, Western Pacific, C&NW, CP Rail, UP modern, DT&I magenta. Quad door: PC, MP screaming eagle. Now taking orders for dbl dr: N&W, Central of Georgia, MILW-yellow, NYC, PC, Chessie, GTW, ICG, L&N Family Lines, M-K-T. Quad door: UP automated rail way, PRR.
CP Rail
CNW
BLUFORD SHOPS
www.bluford-shops.com
See your dealer for earlier runs. New runs are announced every month. See our website! PO Box 152 Bluford, IL 62814 ph. 618-822-6833

All Roads Lead to Brasseur
ELECTRIC TRAINS
Your K-Line Parts & Service Center
410 Court St.
Saginaw, MI 48602
Ph: 989-793-4753
Fax: 989-793-2509
Mon.-Sat. 9:30-5:30
www.brasseurelectrictrains.com
or www.traindoctor.com
We Stock All Major Brands!
Over 30 years of Lionel service and sales
Bob and Dean invite you to visit their store in Saginaw, Michigan. Just 90 miles north of Detroit, just off I-75

Check our fully secure Web site with hot off the press and collector items
www.ronsbooks.com
e-mail us at:
ronsbooks@aol.com

Ron's Books

P.O. BOX 714, HARRISON, NY 10528
(914)967-7541 11AM to 10PM EST; FAX (914)967-7492 24HR

"YOUR ONE STOP BOOK AND DVD SHOP"
Discount Prices & Never a Shipping Charge within the U.S.*

A Century & 10 of Denver & Rio Grande Nar Ga Frt Cars 2nd Ed. .48.00
A Chron. Hist of the Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes RR 1879-1900 .27.50
Alco Century Series Vol 1 32.50; Vol 2 .36.50
Alco's DL640 Locomotive .60.50
Amazing Journey of Santa Fe's RDC Cars .55.50
Arcade & Attica Railroad – Arcadia .21.50
Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Album .27.50
Auto-Train – Arcadia .21.50
Bethlehem Steel Builder & Arsenal of America .40.50
Bethlehem Steel Railroading .23.50
Big Steel - The First Century of the United States Steel Corp .25.50
Billboard Refrigerator Cars .56.50
BNSF Railway Freight Cars Vol 1 45.00, Vol 2 or 3 each .50.50
Budd Passenger Cars Vol. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 or 7 .each 36.50
Burlington Route Passenger Trains Vol 1 or 2 each .55.50
Call of Trains Railroad Photographs by Jim Shaughnessy .60.50
Canadian National Facilities in Color Volume 1 .48.50
Canadian Pacific to the East CP's International of Maine Div .58.50
Chili Line - The Narrow Rail Trail to Santa Fe .23.50
Coal Cars - The First 300 Years .68.50
Colorado & Southern High Line Memories & Then Some .55.50
Colorado Central Railroad .74.50
Coming of the Train - Hoosac Tunnel Vol 1 .45.50
CSX Clinchfield in the 21st Century .36.50
Cumbres & Toltec – A Photographic Tribute .45.50
Detroit, Toledo & Ironton Railroad Cabooses .27.50
Diesel Locomotives of the Western Pacific .55.50
Duluth South Shore & Atlantic Railway .45.50
Edwards Railway Motor Car Company .45.50
From Plantation to Theme Park -Disneyland .27.50
From the Coal Fields to the Hudson – Delaware & Hudson Canal .23.50
Ghost Rails Vol III or IV each .27.50
Ghost Rails Vol V PRR Butler Branch & Winfield RR .36.50
Great Lakes Ore Docks & Ore Cars Photo Archive .27.50
Hawaiian Railway Album WWII Photographs Vol 1-4 h/c .72.00
How A Steam Locomotive Works .27.50
Illinois Central North of the Ohio River .55.50
Kansas City Southern Railway – Arcadia .21.50
Katy Recollections .45.00
Lackawanna RR Facilities in Color Vol 1, 2 or 3 each .48.50
Lehigh Valley Facilities in Color Vol 1, 2 or 3 each .48.50
Lehigh Valley Railroad A Photo Album .45.50
Lehigh Valley Railroad Across New Jersey- Arcadia .21.50
Listen to the Whistle- Wallkill Valley Railroad .20.50
Locomotive - The Modern Diesel & Electric Reference .45.50
Logging RRs - Principles and General Methods of Ops in the US .34.50
Louisville & Nashville in Color Vol 1 or 2 each .48.50
Milwaukee Road Remembered -s/c .27.50
Milwaukee Road Steam in the West .27.50
Moving Mail and Express by Rail .55.50
Narrow Gauge in the Sheepscot Valley Vol 6 h/c 45.50; s/c .32.50
Newfoundland Railway 1898-1969 .37.00
New Haven Color Pictorial Vol 1 50.50, Vol 2 or 3 each .55.50
New York Central Color History .34.00
New York Central Color Pictorial Vol 1 45.50, Vol 2, 3 or 4 ea. 55.50
New York Central Through Passenger Service Vol 1 .48.50
New York Westchester & Boston-JP Morgan's Magnificent Mistake .36.50
Nickel Plate Road in Color Volume 1 or 2 each .48.50
Ninety Years Crossing Lake Michigan - Ann Arbor Car Ferries - s/c .23.50
Norfolk & Western Steam's Last Stand – Ferrell .55.50
Norfolk Southern Railway Color History .34.00
Omaha Road .55.50
Only Yesterday on the Lehigh & New England .60.50
Ontario Northland in Color .48.50
Original Norfolk Southern 1883-1974 .60.50
Penn Central in Color Vol 1 or 2 each .48.50
Pennsy in the 1960s The Final Decade .45.50
Pennsylvania Railroad Business & Special Cars s/c .36.50
Pennsylvania Railroad Color History .34.00
Pennsylvania RR Facilities in Color Vol 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 each .48.50
Pennsylvania Railroad Locomotive Photo Archive .27.50
Pennsylvania Reading Seashore Lines in Color Vol 2 .48.50
Pig & Whistle Story of the Philadelphia & Western Ry .55.50
Plymouth .36.50
PRR Diesel Loco Pict orial Volume 1, 3 @16.50;
Vol 5 17.50; Vol 6, 7, 8 or 11 @23.50; Vol 9 19.50; Vol 10 .21.50
PRR Lines West Vol 1 or 2 each .55.50
PRR Triumph I, II, III, IV, V, VI or VII each 68.50 VIII .72.00
Pullman Std. Library Vol 1 -50.50;Vol 8-10 or 12 - 16 each .36.50
Railroad Atlas of No. America: GLE; GLW; PNW; Texas, Prairies West, Prairies East, So. East; AZ&NM; Appl. & Pied; Mtns & Plains; So. States, Dakotas & MN each .26.50
Railroad Atlas of NA – Northeast 3rd Western Canada; CA&NV; or CO & UT each .32.50
Railroads of Rensselaer – Arcadia .28.50
Rails Across Martha's Vineyard –Steam Nar Ga & Trolley Lines .21.50
Rails Across New England Vol 1 36.50 Vol 2 .19.50
Rails to the Diggings – Panama Canal .40.50
.32.00

"WHAT'S NEW?"

6077 A Fine Locomotive – Canada .25.00
AAPRCO A Collection of Private Railroad Cars .55.50
Alco Locomotives .36.00
American Passenger Trains WW2 to Amtrak .27.50
Anatomy of a Garratt .45.00
Anthracite Collieries and RRs of the Western Middle Field .60.50
Baldwin Locomotives -Schiffer .36.50
Baltimore & Ohio Facilities in Color Vol 2 Central Region .48.50
Bangor & Aroostook Life of A Maine Railroad Tradition .65.50
Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad A Tribute .55.50
BNSF Railway 2009 Locomotive Review .44.00
Buckets, Flanges & Black Diamonds- Mining & Moving Coal in PA 55.50
C&NW Steam Era in Wisconsin .36.50
Cajon Pass – Arcadia .21.50
Canadian National Facilities in Color Volume 2 .48.50
Central Mass – Revised Second Edition .36.50
Chicago & Illinois Midland Railway in Color .48.50
Chicago & North Western Recollections Vol 1 .55.50
Chicago & North Western's Air Line Subdivision .60.00
Chili Line & Santa Fe The City Different 3rd edition .55.50
Coal Trains – The History of Railroading & Coal in the US .34.00
Colorado Rail Annual 29 Black Smoke & White Iron .40.50
Complete Book of North American Railroading .36.00
CSX Diesel Locomotive Directory 2009 .26.50
Denver & Rio Grande Locomotives Photo Archive .27.50
Denver & Rio Grande Western 2-8-0 Pictorial Vol 5 .26.50
Dining on the B&O Recipes & Sidelights from a Bygone Era .32.50
Durango & Silverton – Furukawa .45.50
EMD's FP7 & FP9 Dual Service Cab Units .36.50
Forgotten Railroads Through Westchester County .45.50
Frank Julian Sprague .36.50
German National Railway in World War 2 .40.50
Ghost Rails Vol 6 Harmony Route .40.50
Gilpin Railroad Era .78.50
GM&O The Alton Route in Color Vol 1 First Generation .48.50
Grand Trunk Western Railroad An Illustrated History .55.50
Green Bay & Western Steam Era .36.50
Historical Atlas of World Railways .40.50
Inland Empire Electric Line –Spokane & Inland Empire .36.50
Iowa Railroads An Album h/c 55.50; s/c .27.50
Iron Trails of North American 1978-2008 .45.50
L&N Cabooses – International Car Co & Fruit Growers Express .25.50
Last of A Breed- Rio Grande Finale at Helper Utah .65.50
London Trolleybuses A Black & White Album .42.00
Milwaukee Road Locomotives Vol 3 .55.50
Minneapolis & St. Louis A Photographic History h/c 72.00; s/c .45.50
Montour Railroad .45.50
Narrow Gauge to No Man's Land .50.50
New York Central Steam Power in the Empire State .23.50
New York Central Through Passenger Service Vol 2 .48.50
New York Subway Graffiti .27.50
Norfolk & Western Railway Connellsville District .45.50
Norfolk & Western Railway Stations & Depots – Arcadia .21.50
Pennsy in Chicago .60.50
Pennsy RR Facilities in Color Vol 6 Harrisburg Div Frt Lines .48.50
Pennsylvania Railroad Flat Cars in Revenue & Work Service 36.50
Prophet's Pennsy .45.50
PRR Triumph IX Salt Seas to Bays, Valleys, Dells & Firestorms .72.00
Railroad Atlas of North America Ontario .28.50
Railroad Atlas of the United States Vol 3 IN, Lower MI, OH .60.50
Railroads of Cameroun & Associated Postal History .50.50
Rails Across the Mississippi – A History of the St. Louis Bridge .19.50
Railway Prototype Cyclopedia 19 .28.50
Rio Grande's La Veta Pass Route- Revised .52.50
River Line 5th Anniversary Edition H/C .65.50
Sacramento Northern –Demoro .65.50
Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes RR & Predecessors Equip V 2 .55.50
Santa Fe Coaling Facilities – Engineering Series Vol 1 .23.50
Santa Fe Rolling Stock Ref Vol 7 Open Top Cars .55.50
Santa Fe Through Passenger Service Vol 1 .48.50
Southern Electric A New History Vol 1 .52.00
Southern Pacific 1901-1985 .35.00
Stan Kistler's Santa Fe in Black & White .60.50
Steel Mill Railroads in Color .48.50
Sudbury Streetcars –Sudbury-Copper Cliff Suburban Electric Ry .30.00
Tehachapi Today .45.50
Toronto's Railway Heritage – Arcadia .21.50
The BMT A Technical & Operational History s/c 50.50; h/c .65.50
Trackside Around Pueblo 1955-1970 with Stuart Sutton .48.50
Trackside to the Jersey Shore with John Dziobko Jr .48.50
Trains to Victory – America's Railroads in World War 2 .55.50
Union Pacific Photo Series Vol 34-38 each .23.50
Union Pacific Yellow Nebraska Central Red .19.50
Urban Mass Transit – Life Story of a Technology .23.50
Washington State Railroad Depots Photo Archive .27.50

OLDIES BUT GOODIES

American Bridge Patents The First Century 1790-1890 .36.50
California's Locomotives Shortline Steam in the Golden State 30.50
Chesapeake & Ohio Passenger Cars in Color .25.50
Grand Old Stations & Steam Locos of the Ulster & Delaware .24.00
Main Lines –Rebirth of North American Railroads .45.50
Milwaukee Electrics .45.50
Nashville Chattanooga & St Louis – Dixie Line Schult .30.50
Pennsy Streamliners Blue Ribbon Fleet .35.00
Portraits in Steel –Jones & Laughlin Steel Mills .63.50
Santa Fe System Standards Vol 1, 2 or 3 each .35.00
Steel Rails & Silver Wings .33.00
Two Feet to Tidewater – Revised Edition .60.00
Union Pacific Equipment – Kratville .45.50
Vista Dome North Coast Limited .68.50
White Pine Route .45.50

Ry Prototype Cyc. Vol 9 - 14 each 23.50; Vol 15 -18 each .26.50
The RGS Story Vol 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11 or 12 each .70.50
Ridin' The Rails Passenger Equipment of the NYO&W .36.50
Riding the Winged Wheel - Trackless Trolleys Wilkes-Barre, PA .27.00
Rio Grande -Chasing the Narrow Gauge- V1 or V2 -Richardson @ .52.50
Rocky Mt RRs V1 RGS 39.50;V 2 Durango to Alamosa & Salida 44.50
Route 66 Railway - Santa Fe .45.50
Saga of the Soo Vol 1 35.50; Vol 2 40.50; Vol 3 .45.50
Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes RR & Predecessors Equip V1 .50.50
Santa Fe Locomotive Development .60.50
Santa Fe Passenger Car Ref Vol 2 56.50; Vol 3 82.50; Vol 4 .63.50
Scranton Railroads –Arcadia .21.50
Seaboard Air Line in Color Vol 1 Motive Power & Memories .48.50
Soo Line Steam .27.50
Southern Pacific Freight Cars V1 or 3 ea 60.50; V2, 4 or 5 ea 65.50
Southern Pacific Passenger Cars V1 100.00; Vol 2 or 3 ea .125.00
Southern Pacific's Shasta Division .60.50
Southern Pacific's Sunset Route A Color Pictorial .55.50
Southern Pacific's Western Division .65.50
Southern Railway Color History .34.00
SR&RL Passenger Cars Vol 1 h/c 45.50 s/c .27.50
Steam Echoes of Hamilton .69.00
Steam in Northern Ontario .67.00
Steam Through Tehachapi Los Angeles to Woodford .60.50
Steel Giants – Historic Images of NW Indiana's Steel Industry .36.50
Steel Rails & Silver Dreams .45.50
Steel Trails Chasing Trains in Arizona in the 1950's .27.50
Stock Car Cyclopedia Vol 1 .27.50
Street Railways of El Paso – Arcadia .21.50
Texas & New Orleans -McLennan .65.50
The A- Norfolk & Western's Mercedes of Steam Revised .58.50
The Ol' Hook & Eye A History of the Kishacoquillas Valley RR .31.50
Three Feet on the Panhandle .32.00
Touring the West with the Fred Harvey Co. & the Santa Fe Ry .23.50
Towers in St Louis - Historical Guide to Interlocking Towers .32.50
Trackside Along the Erie Railroad & Its Connections .48.50
Trackside Around New Hampshire 1950-70 w/ English .48.50
Trackside Around Pennsylvania 1957-1989 with Al Holtz .48.50
Trackside in the Virginias 1945-69 w/ Sherwin .48.50
Trains & A Camera - Boeger .55.50
Tumbleweeds & Fast Freights -Santa Fe .65.50
Union Pacific Railroad Photo Archive .27.50
Union Pacific's Streamliners - MBI .34.00
Vermont Rail System A Railroad Renaissance .55.50
Welcome Aboard the Disneyland Railroad .36.50
Western Pacific Depots & Stations .55.50
West Virginia & Pittsburgh The B&O's Road to the Hardwoods .27.50
Where Did the Tracks Go in the Eastern Adirondacks? .23.50
Wisconsin Central Heritage Vol 1 or 2 each .55.50

RON'S COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Alaska Railroad – Fitch .75.00
British Columbia Railway – Garden .125.00
Burlington Northern Passenger Cars .275.00
Decade of the Train – Ball S/C .40.00
Destination Topolobampo .60.00
Fogg & Steam H/C .200.00
Great Siberian Railway .225.00
Hiawatha First of the Speedliners .325.00
History of the Union Pacific in Cheyenne .250.00
Kinsey Locomotive Portraits .45.00
New York Central System Gone But Not Forgotten .100.00
Pennsylvania Railroad 1940's – 1950's Ball Signed .85.00
Rolling Thunder – Benson .65.00
Santa Fe Pass Train Cars 1870-1971 V1 Head End Cars .300.00
Santa Fe Passenger Train Cars 1870-1975 Vol 2 .300.00
Sierra Railway – Deane .40.00
Thunder Lake Narrow Gauge .50.00
Timber Country – Logging the Great Northwest – Tom DJ .100.00
Vanishing Depot .60.00
West From Omaha .75.00

***$20.00 MINIMUM order for free shipping in the USA. Orders under $20.00 please add $3.00 shipping.** *All foreign orders must be sent airmail and will be billed accordingly.* Send $3.00 for latest list. All orders must be paid in U.S. funds. NY residents please add correct sales tax. Print your name address and phone number. Credit card users add card number and expiration date. Allow 4 weeks for delivery. Make checks payable to Ron's Books. Only inquiries which include a SASE will be answered. Prices subject to change. WE BUY COLLECTIONS

REVIEW Decoder

MRC bring DC/DCC sound to Passenger Fs

Review and Photos by Steven Goehring

N Gauge DC/DCC Diesel Sound Decoder (#0001833 — Intermountain FP7/9), MSRP: $89.98.

Model Rectifier Corp.
80 Newfield Avenue
Edison, NJ 08837
732-225-2100 • Fax: 732-225-0091
www.modelrec.com

My Intermountain FP7 has been redone to a greater level of authenticity both inside and out. While the antenna system and details are not the focus of this review, the MRC DCC/DC sound decoder pictured in front of it is. Much like the aftermarket details on the FP7 lend it the look of an expensive, fine model, the sounds and digital control offered by the decoder further enhance the value and quality of the already excellent FP7.

MODEL RECTIFIER CORP. has just released a new decoder in their line of N-scale drop-in sound decoders. This new chip replaces the light board in Intermountain Railway Co.'s EMD FP7 and FP9 models, giving them digital sound, lights, and motor control. The FP7 decoders are MRC item number 0001833, and sell for $89.99 each. The decoders work on Digital Command Control (DCC) and DC-current power packs, but to get full functionality under DC, you will need either MRC's BlackBox or Tech 6 controllers.

Installations

Installing the 1833 decoder is not especially difficult, but as with any decoder for an Intermountain F-unit, it requires some precise effort. You must first remove the front coupler, and then gently lift the shell off of the chassis. Next, unscrew the two screws holding the existing light board or decoder in place, and lift the board off to the side. Unsolder the headlight wires with a low-watt precision soldering iron, remembering or labeling which wire runs to which contact. Next, re-solder the wires to the 1833 decoder in the same arrangement, avoiding fouling the other electronic parts. Apply insulating electrical tape as instructed in the MRC sound decoder's manual.

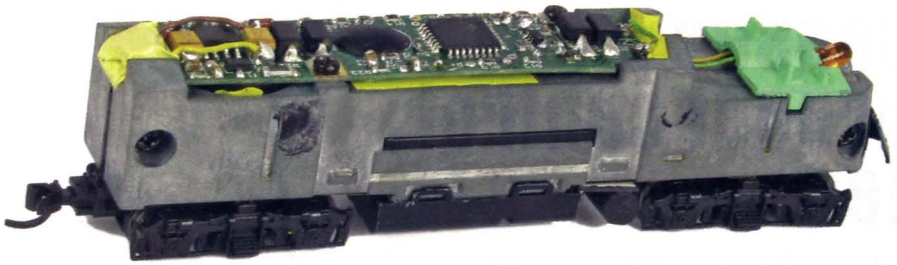
Lay the decoder back in place with the speaker in its cutout hole in the frame and the freestanding capacitor on the back into its gap on the rear end of the chassis. Reinsert the screws through the decoder and into the chassis, and then you're ready to test your installation. MRC recommends setting up a DCC test track with a 27-ohm resistor, which will protect your 90-dollar decoder from burning up because of some small mistake in soldering or insulating. If the locomotive moves, makes sound, and lights up, then your decoder is fully installed; reassemble the locomotive and have fun! The decoder is an excellent fit that takes full advantage of the space available in the FP7's mechanism.

Sound-Equipped Passenger F-Unit

I'd been waiting for a sound decoder for the FP7 ever since I first reviewed the locomotive, and I was more than excited to get this unit out on the road. When you first power up the decoder, the engine sounds like a modern SD70, not an F-unit. You have to reprogram a few CVs (configuration variables) to get the sound accurate. You can do this either in DCC with function buttons, CV programming. If you're running DC and don't have a BlackBox programmer, you should go to your local hobby shop with the decoder instructions in hand, and get them to program it for you on a test track. You can put together an FP7 sound set by setting CV123 (diesel motor type) to 1, and adjusted the horn sound to a single-chime tone with CV50 (horn) at 33. I also recommend setting the bell CV52 to 0, and the ring rate CV54 to 11, based on various videos of FP7s in operation.

The decoder does a good job of making the great FP7 locomotive even better. MRC's motor control has improved with the introduction of Back EMF (electromagnetic force) which gives the motor the precise control it needs to start the locomotive off at less than one scale mile per hour, right on speed step 1. The locomotive's speed remains the same until the Back EMF cuts out (speed step 12 for me) at which my locomotive accelerated significantly. Given the FP7's otherwise great speed control, I'll gladly live with the "12-O'clock Jump." Plus, if you want extra precision, you can enable and program a 28-step speed table that can smooth out the throttle and match it to any other locomotive you wish.

The locomotive's speed control is very nice under DC. I've run previous, non-Back-EMF MRC decoders under DC before, and this one is far and away better. It fires up around 7 volts and will start moving slightly above that. You can turn the throttle down as far as 6 volts or below before power cuts out, but if you change the direction switch at anything below 7 or 8, you may have the engine restart on you. It will start moving consistently and smoothly, and has a good speed range considering it only uses half of your throttle dial. The diesel motor sounds run pretty high (notches up quickly) but that would look incredibly realistic and impressive with a heavy train in tow!



Here is the 1833 decoder installed in my FP7 mechanism. Note the bright yellow electrical tape under the decoder, surrounding the headlight terminals (near the plastic cab interior piece) and coming up from the recessed speaker housing. The MRC instructions recommend insulating each of these places, among a few others; read the instructions well during installation, and your new sound decoder will give you hours of enjoyment!

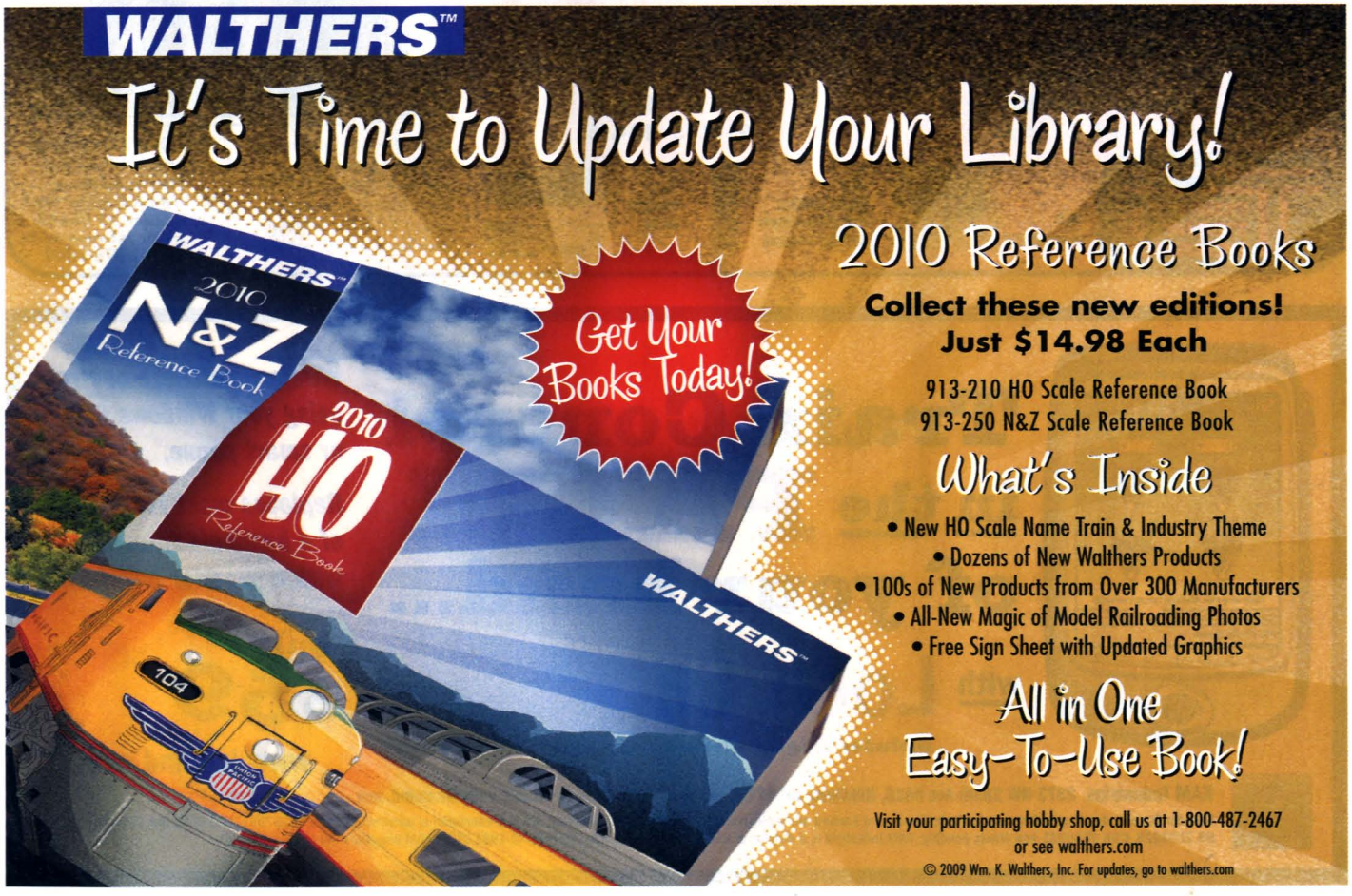
Running under DCC, I've found that I don't like the rate at which the diesel motor notches up on MRC's new Back-EMF-equipped decoders. The notch-up levels for the diesel sounds have been changed, and they also seem to adjust themselves based on how you configure the speed settings. Older MRC decoders throttled up every 16 speed steps on the 128-step scale, but the new decoders notch up less often. In my opinion, the motor sounds don't speed up often enough; the locomotive will be speeding along, yet the motor will maybe be in notch 3. With a heavy train, that looks and sounds rather strange to me.

Since I don't care for the auto-notch mode, I explored MRC's manual notch mode (CV122=3). I found this to be a very nice feature, allowing me to operate the FP7 more realistically than any automatic sound decoder. Using F8 to decrease engine RPM and F9 to increase, or activate and deactivate the dynamic brakes (F6) to reset the RPM to idle. Although this adds another task to running the locomotive, you can make the locomotive truly behave just as it would if you were in the cab. If you're just moving the locomotive at Run-1 to the end of a yard track, you can leave the diesel motor at idle RPM, just like the real locomotive would. Or you can punch F9 repeatedly to make a dramatic buildup to a jackrabbit start. No automatic sound decoders know what you're thinking or planning, and the ones that try to think for you generally do a miserable job at it. You can see if you want anything done exactly around here, you gotta do it yourself, and MRC allows you to do so with ease.

The 1833 decoder has a nice sound quality to it, possibly because of the larger speaker that the FP7's chassis shape allows for. Sound distortion is minimal, and overall, it creates an excellent representation of an F-unit at work. Horns and bells vary somewhat in clarity, but the ones you'll want to use are all very crisp and clear, and sound excellent. Extra sounds like air brakes are also nicely done.

A Welcome Addition

The Intermountain FP7 was designed from the start to accept a sound decoder, and MRC has delivered a quality product that I have enjoyed very much. Aside from the changes to when the diesel RPM notches up or down, this decoder is a combination of all of the finest features MRC has offered to date. The 1833 decoder is a refined, quality product that I recommend to anyone who operates Intermountain's fine N-scale FP7.


WALTHERS™
It's Time to Update Your Library!
2010 Reference Books
Collect these new editions!
Just $14.98 Each
913-210 HO Scale Reference Book
913-250 N&Z Scale Reference Book
What's Inside
• New HO Scale Name Train & Industry Theme
• Dozens of New Walthers Products
• 100s of New Products from Over 300 Manufacturers
• All-New Magic of Model Railroading Photos
• Free Sign Sheet with Updated Graphics
All in One Easy-To-Use Book!
Get Your Books Today!
WALTHERS
2010 N&Z Reference Book
2010 HO Reference Book
Visit your participating hobby shop, call us at 1-800-487-2467
or see walthers.com
© 2009 Wm. K. Walthers, Inc. For updates, go to walthers.com

Fast Tracks releases a low cost, manual turnout control with accessories

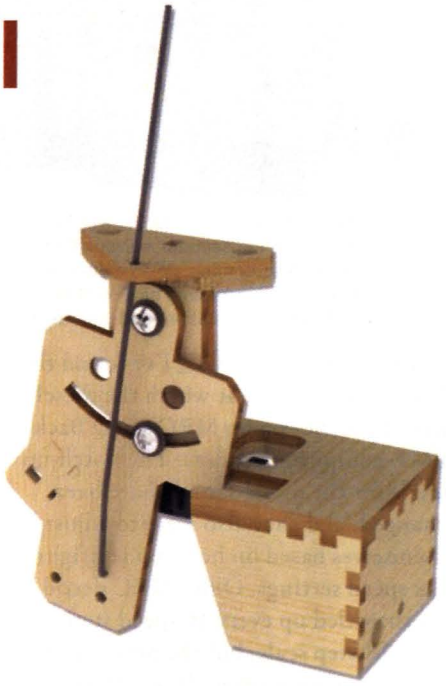
MULTI-SCALE — Fast Tracks has announced the release of the new BullFrog undermount manual turnout control with a complete line of supporting accessories.

The BullFrog features a small mounting footprint, automatic power routing with an integrated SPDT switch (with the option to add a second switch), and a high torque, long throw wire, making it easy to mount the control under the layout with minimal alignment problems.

The product line also includes a number of accessories including the TadPole remote control rod mount for installing the BullFrog in very tight locations, hangers for supporting the control rod under the layout, joiners for creating control rods of any length, and complete control rod kits that include the control rod, mounting hardware, and panel knob.

The BullFrog turnout control is laser cut from 2-millimeter plywood and has been endurance tested for over 100,000 cycles. It is compatible with all scales from Z to O. Complete with integrated control rod mounting, the BullFrog turnout control is priced at $6.00 each for an unassembled version, and $9.00 each for a ready to use model.

Fast Tracks, 47 6th Concession Rd, Brantford, ON N3T 5L7; 888-252-3895; Fax: 403-770-8314; E-mail: service@fast-tracks.net; www.fast-tracks.net



1000s Sold and Acclaimed by Users, Easily Measure DCC, AC and DC Volts/Amps!

The amazing RRampMeter designed for Model Railroaders does what no other meter can do!

Easy walk-around measurements of layout voltage drops, accurate booster output setup to optimum voltages for decoders and sound units.

11/09

Great Preseason Sale! *Effective Nov 10 - Dec 10, 2009*

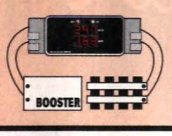
RRampMeter Model	List	Sale	Save!
Version 1: without Enclosure	$59.95	$44.95	$15.00
Version 2: with Enclosure plus Clip Leads	$89.95	$64.95	$25.00
Version 3: Same as 2 with Battery	$99.95	$69.95	$30.00
Version 4: Same as 3, 20 Amps	$119.95	$84.95	$35.00

TONY'S TRAIN XCHANGE

Fig 1: PANEL MOUNT

Fig 2: DIRECT CONTACT VOLTMETER SHOWN WITHOUT HOUSING

Fig 3: CURRENT METER



Version I Module without enclosure, $49.95. **Ver. II** Module with enclosure & Clip Leads, $69.95. **Ver. III** with battery assist for low DC voltages, $79.95. **Ver. IV** HP (high power 20A for O & G gauges), $94.95.

800-978-3472
tonystrains.com
Pinewood Plaza
57 River Rd, Suite 1023
Essex Jct, VT 05452
info@TonysTrains.com
fax 802-878-5550

Train Control in the PALM of your hand...

with Loco CE®

includes Engine Commander® and Train Server®

Wireless software control using your Windows PDA or smart phone.

Replaces most functions of a handheld throttle with a superior interface.

only $59

www.kamind.com

KAM Industries 2373 NW 185th Ave #416, Hillsboro, OR 97124 | (503) 291-1221 | Email: sales@kamind.com

Decoder Commander, Engine Commander, Train Server, and Kamind are registered trademarks of KAM Industries, US and International patents 6065406, 6267061, 6877699, Ger 29923834.2, GB 2353228, CDN 2330931 and others pending. KAM Industries is a division of KAMIND Associates, Inc. Copyright © 1991-2005 KAM Industries. All rights reserved.

Expansion releases for Bachmann's E-Z Command Dynamics Wireless Digital Command Control System

DCC — Bachmann Industries has released three expansion elements for the E-Z Command Dynamics Wireless Digital Command Control System.

The first is the E-Zcommand Dynamis handset (#36507). The use of additional handsets provides multiple person operation of a railroad. Four handsets can be used simultaneously with the Dynamis Pro system. It retails for $150.00.

The E-Zcommand Dynamis Pro Box (#36508) allows the use of three additional wireless controllers (limit four), additional wireless receivers and the use of programming tracks to read and write CV values. All of this plus a PC interface will transform your Dynamis system into a Dynamis "Pro" system. It retails for $450.00.

The E-Zcommand Dynamis Wireless Receiver (#36509) provides extended receiver coverage for larger layouts. It retails for $45.00.

Bachmann Industries, 1400 E Erie Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19124-5698; 215-533-1600; Fax: 215-744-4699; E-mail: dcblaine@aol.com; www.bachmanntrains.com

NEW from Micro-Mark

Digital Meter Measures the Drawbar Pull of Your Locomotives

#84518 $19.95 S/H extra

Helps you maximize the performance of your locomotive fleet

Measure Track Grades with Ultra Precision!

Also Measures Exact Angles of Machine Tool Set Ups

#84519 $34.95 S/H extra

Get our BIG catalog...a $4 value ...FREE with any order!

1-800-225-1066

Please mention code 3682 when ordering

Price guaranteed through 11/30/09

Hobby Crafts N More

Your virtual "Mom & Pop" shop

Accessories & Rolling Stock • Z Bend Wiring Harness Kits

N, HO, Specializing in Z-scale & Narrow-Gauge Trains

Personal, small shop service on an international scale

Email: hobbycraftsnmore@aol.com

www.hobbycraftsnmore.com

Litchfield STATION

You REALLY want Sound!

www.Mr-DCC.com

623-298-7355

EVOLUTION

ON3 COUPLER

UNIQUE DESIGN, FUNCTIONAL, TRUER TO DESIGN THAN ANY OTHER COUPLER ON THE MARKET.

IN STOCK NOW

#5114 BROWN 2 PAIRS

#5115 BLACK 2 PAIRS

$4.95

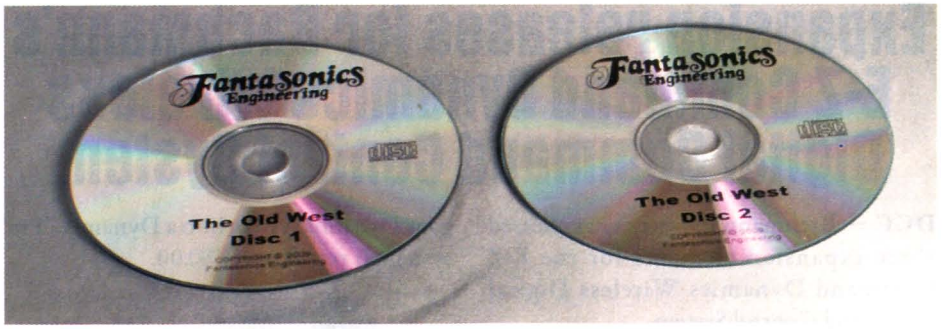
San Juan Car Co.

San Juan Car Co. P.O. Box 1028 Durango, CO 81302

(970) 385-5256 Fax: (970) 385-1030 E-mail: sanjuancar@frontier.net Website: www.sanjuancarco.com

REVIEW **Accessories**

Fantasonics Scale Magic Updates Layout Sound "Magic"



Fantasonics Scale Magic has announced several new CDs in their Scale Magic series. I recently obtained an Old West series that compliments my era of operation.

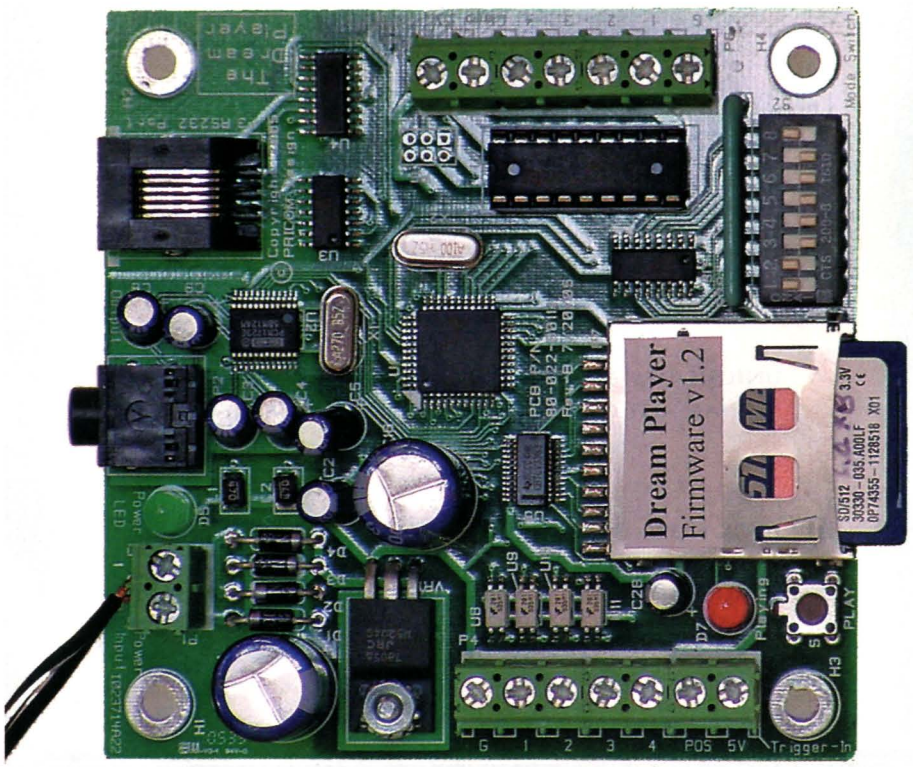
Review and Photos by Pete Birdsong

Fantasonics Scale Magic CDs, MSRP: $29.95 with manual; additional CDs: $24.95

Fantasonics Engineering
695 Crescent Avenue
Orcutt, CA 93455
805-937-4342
www.fantasonics.com

FANTASONICS Engineering markets Scale Magic scratchbuilt sound tracks on CDs and Secure Digital (SD) cards. For modelers interested in a low-cost but effective background sound system that adds immeasurably to the impact of your layout, the CDs and CD sets can be played on any CD player for great background sound. Fantasonics has recently released several new CDs in the series, including some two-CD sets. They offered for review one of their latest offerings, a two-CD set titled "The Old West."

For a more sophisticated system, Fantasonics also offers the sounds on SD cards, which can be played on a Pricom Dream Player, a 100 percent solid state, three and one-half inch square printed circuit board (PCB), which can trigger playing up to four sound 'scenes' based on inputs that can be anything from a toggle switch to a DCC radio throttle and decoder, and they start any of four sound tracks on an SD card playing, and send the sounds to up to four sets of speakers, which can be placed near corresponding physical scenes. The output controls can turn almost anything on or off: lights, motors, relays, other Dream Players, etc. This product, as well as the Fantasonics sounds, was reviewed in detail in the April 2007 issue of *Model Railroad News*. More information on the Pricom player is available on the Fantaonics web site.



The Pricom Dream Player is a 3.5 inch square printed circuit board (PCB) with input triggers for four soundtracks, four output control circuits, and eight DIP switches to control how it works. A full review of the Fantasonics system was originally published in April 2007.

Audio Description

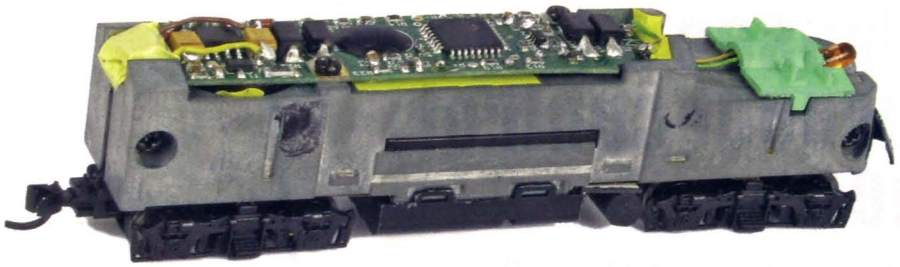
The Fantasonics products are basically soundtracks that have been scratchbuilt from sound elements, rather than recordings of actual sounds. You can hear samples on their web site. There are approximately 30 products, including stamp mills, sawmills, city and country sounds, logging camps, wayside stations and saloons, among others. They seem to me to be a cross between real and surreal components, but they're very effective at creating a believable background sound, an aura of unobtrusive reality that's hard to describe.

At http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LayoutSound/ Yahoo has a Layout Sound discussion group, with about 580 members; it can sometimes be a bit technical (according to what I sampled), but has a lot of good information and help.

Sound Theory

Stereo systems simulate reality by projecting separate sounds to a fairly narrow focal point at which they combine to recreate the original. The speakers must be in phase and enclosed in baffles, to prevent the sounds from canceling each other out, diminishing the effect and making for a flat, tinny sound. And we must listen at the focal point for the best effect.

Moreover, we hear medium-pitch sounds better and through more advanced age than the low and high pitched ones, and conventional sound systems help us with electronic controls to boost the bass and treble volumes.



Here is the 1833 decoder installed in my FP7 mechanism. Note the bright yellow electrical tape under the decoder, surrounding the headlight terminals (near the plastic cab interior piece) and coming up from the recessed speaker housing. The MRC instructions recommend insulating each of these places, among a few others; read the instructions well during installation, and your new sound decoder will give you hours of enjoyment!

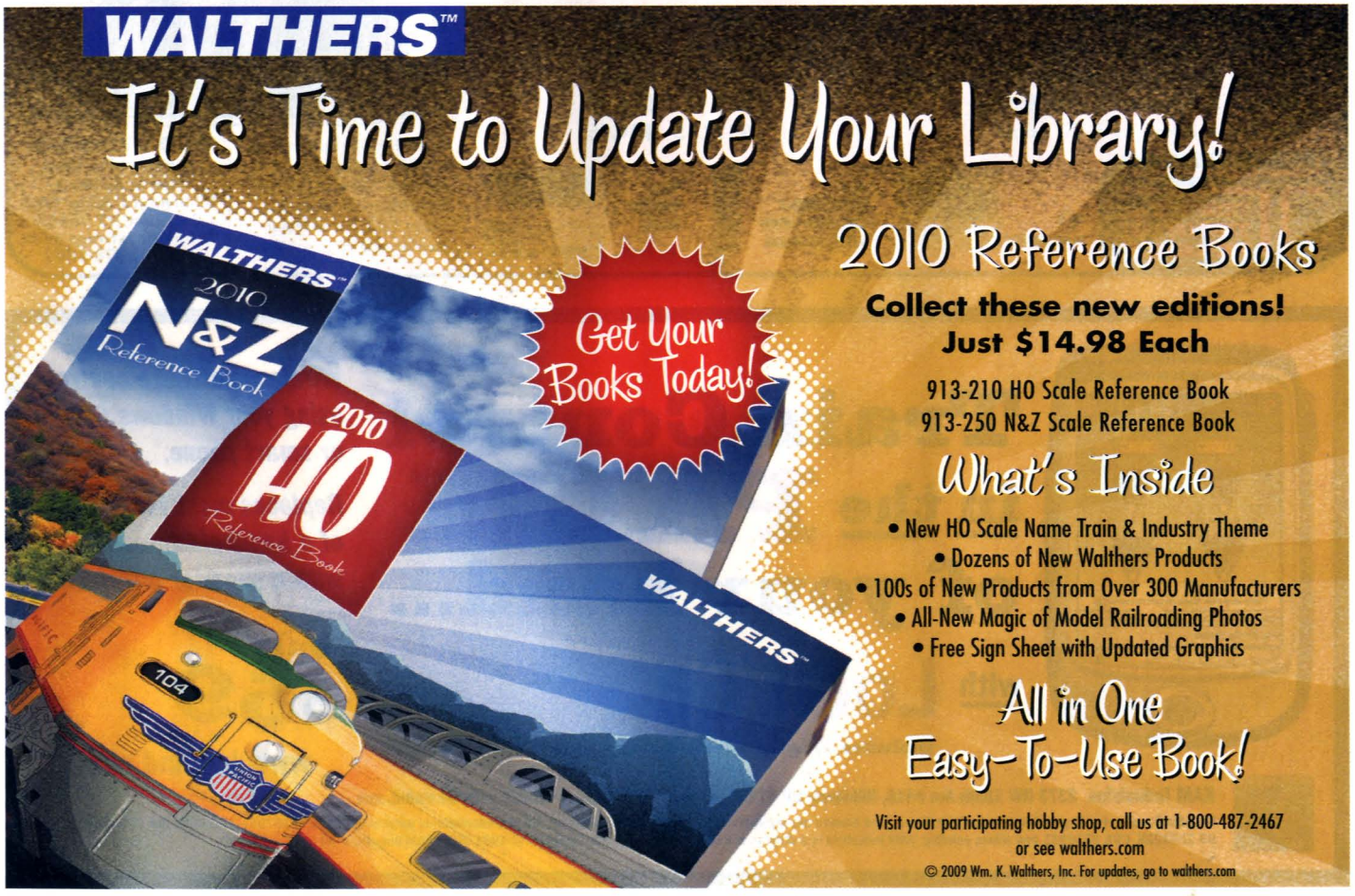
Running under DCC, I've found that I don't like the rate at which the diesel motor notches up on MRC's new Back-EMF-equipped decoders. The notch-up levels for the diesel sounds have been changed, and they also seem to adjust themselves based on how you configure the speed settings. Older MRC decoders throttled up every 16 speed steps on the 128-step scale, but the new decoders notch up less often. In my opinion, the motor sounds don't speed up often enough; the locomotive will be speeding along, yet the motor will maybe be in notch 3. With a heavy train, that looks and sounds rather strange to me.

Since I don't care for the auto-notch mode, I explored MRC's manual notch mode (CV122=3). I found this to be a very nice feature, allowing me to operate the FP7 more realistically than any automatic sound decoder. Using F8 to decrease engine RPM and F9 to increase, or activate and deactivate the dynamic brakes (F6) to reset the RPM to idle. Although this adds another task to running the locomotive, you can make the locomotive truly behave just as it would if you were in the cab. If you're just moving the locomotive at Run-1 to the end of a yard track, you can leave the diesel motor at idle RPM, just like the real locomotive would. Or you can punch F9 repeatedly to make a dramatic buildup to a jackrabbit start. No automatic sound decoders know what you're thinking or planning, and the ones that try to think for you generally do a miserable job at it. You can see if you want anything done exactly around here, you gotta do it yourself, and MRC allows you to do so with ease.

The 1833 decoder has a nice sound quality to it, possibly because of the larger speaker that the FP7's chassis shape allows for. Sound distortion is minimal, and overall, it creates an excellent representation of an F-unit at work. Horns and bells vary somewhat in clarity, but the ones you'll want to use are all very crisp and clear, and sound excellent. Extra sounds like air brakes are also nicely done.

A Welcome Addition

The Intermountain FP7 was designed from the start to accept a sound decoder, and MRC has delivered a quality product that I have enjoyed very much. Aside from the changes to when the diesel RPM notches up or down, this decoder is a combination of all of the finest features MRC has offered to date. The 1833 decoder is a refined, quality product that I recommend to anyone who operates Intermountain's fine N-scale FP7.


WALTHERS™
It's Time to Update Your Library!
2010 Reference Books
Collect these new editions!
Just $14.98 Each
913-210 HO Scale Reference Book
913-250 N&Z Scale Reference Book
What's Inside
• New HO Scale Name Train & Industry Theme
• Dozens of New Walthers Products
• 100s of New Products from Over 300 Manufacturers
• All-New Magic of Model Railroading Photos
• Free Sign Sheet with Updated Graphics
All in One Easy-To-Use Book!
Visit your participating hobby shop, call us at 1-800-487-2467
or see walthers.com
© 2009 Wm. K. Walthers, Inc. For updates, go to walthers.com
Get Your Books Today!
WALTHERS
2010 N&Z Reference Book
2010 HO Reference Book
104

New N-scale SA-type signals from NJ International

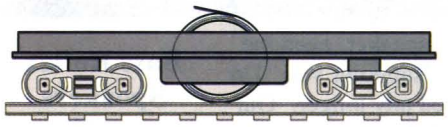
N — NJ International has released two new products in their line of SA-type Target Signals. The first to be released will be a single target type signal and a ground type signal. Both signals are said to be exact N-scale and feature all brass construction. Details on the signals include true three-color micro LEDs with red, amber, and blue-green indicators. Both the Single Target Type (#2343) and the Ground Type (#2355) signals retail for $29.99 each.

NJ International Inc., PO Box 1029, Higley, AZ 85236; 480-219-4135; Fax: 480-219-4138; E-mail: signals@njinternational.com; www.njinternational.com

A Patented Better Idea From
CENTERLINE PRODUCTS, INC.

1229 E 4th St
Reno, NV 89512 USA
TEL (775) 337-6662
FAX (775) 337-6663
www.CENTERLINE-PRODUCTS.COM

The Ones That Work!



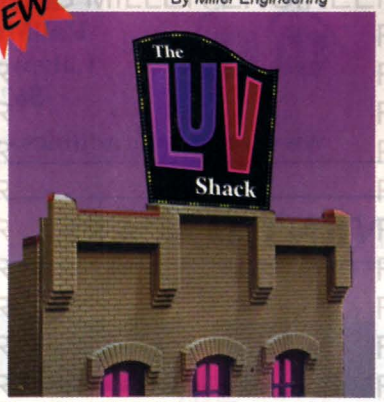
- Rail cleaners that work as advertised!
- Non abrasive and non derailing.
- Clean the rails *and* the wheels.
- Engines run smoother.
- 100% rail contact at all times.
- May be used "*wet*" or "*dry*".
- Immediate and obvious results!
- Gauges - N, HO, OO, S, Sn3, O, G

LIGHT WORKS USA™
By *Miller Engineering*

New Animated Billboards!!

NEW

The LUV Shack Billboard is based on a sign outside of Hartford, CT . We received many suggestions for slogans, which we couldn't even print here! We won't go into great detail about what this sign is for..... if you don't know you don't need it. Surely this sign will add a little spice to any layout. This is a limited production sign.



4481 - "LUV" Billboard - $34.95
Size 2.81" Wide x 2.875" Tall.
S&H $7.50
Suitable for HO/O scales.

For all the lasest news Join our monthly e mail newsletter at:
www.microstru.com

Miller Engineering
PO Box 282 New Canaan CT 06840
Tel. 203-595-0619 Fax 203-322-6116
www.microstru.com
See your dealer first, if not in stock, order direct.

Billboard celebrates Park's Centennial

N, HO, S & O — To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Glacier National Park, the Great Northern Railway Historical Society has produced the Glacier National Park Centennial Limited Edition Animated Billboard.

Built exclusively for the Great Northern Railway Historical Society by Miller Engineering the .020-inch thick, 4-1/4 inch wide, 2-1/8 inch tall, plastic, electroluminescent, six-function billboard, features continuously lit "Great Northern," "A Dependable Railway," and 1920s-era Great Northern logo. The "Ship" and "Travel" detail alternates as the P-2 Locomotive appears to move down the animated track.

The unit operates using 4.5 volts either from an outside power source or the included AAA battery box. The circuit board connects to the Billboard via a 15-inch ribbon cable with a flat plug. Suitable for multiple scales, N, HO, S, or O, the limited edition Billboard is available exclusively from the Great Northern Railway Historical Society. The billboard retails for $39.95 each plus $5.00 shipping per order.

Great Northern Railway Historical Society, 506 Tremont St, Mauston, WI 53948; E-mail: bgoeser@verizon.net

Surplus Electronic Parts & Accessories
Many items of interest to the model hobbyist.

Cables, Connectors, Fans
Hardware, LEDs, Motors
Relays, Speakers, Switches
Test Equipment, Tools, And Much More...

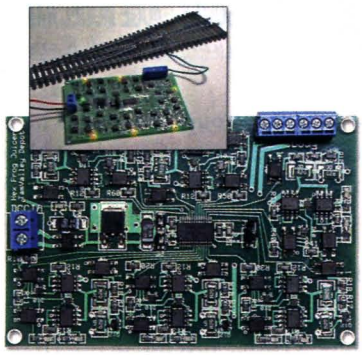
No Minimum Order.
Credit Cards and PAYPAL Accepted.
Flat $4.95 per order USA Shipping.

Visit us before your next project or layout.

Over 13,000 Items in Stock.

SURPLUS MATERIAL COMPONENTS
Electronic Component Distributorship
www.smcelectronics.com

Fast Tracks: Hex Frog Juicer Internet Retailer



DCC — Fast Tracks has announced that they have been appointed by Tam Valley Depot as the exclusive Internet retailer for the Hex Frog Juicer automatic frog polarity reverser.

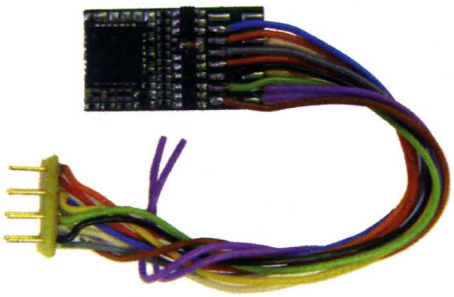
The Hex Frog Juicer is an easy-to-use, electronic controlled switch that automatically and instantly switches the polarity of the frog as the engine passes over a switch. It eliminates the need for complicated wiring or electro-mechanical switches, replacing them with a single device connected to the frog with one wire. Polarity switching is seamless with no interruption to engine motion or loss of sound.

According to Fast Tracks, each Hex Frog Juicer can control the polarity of DCC power for up to six frogs on all types of switches including turnouts, wyes, 3-ways, and slips. Using a Hex Frog Juicer is especially helpful for double crossovers and crossings, as it dramatically simplifies the wiring for these types of switches.

The Hex Frog Juicer is priced at $69.95 each, is in stock, and is available to order now from the Fast Tracks website at www.fast-tracks.net/frogjuicer.

Fast Tracks, 47 6th Concession Rd, Brantford, ON N3T 5L7; 888-252-3895; Fax: 403-770-8314; E-mail: service@fast-tracks.net; www.fast-tracks.net

New MX630 decoder family available from Zimo



DCC — Zimo has announced the release of their new MX630 decoder family, which will replace the types MX63, MX64, MX64H, and MX64V. The dimensions of the MX630 (with the exception of the MX630H and MX630V, which are a little thicker or longer) is 20 by 11 by 3.5 millimeters, which is slightly smaller than the MX63; previously the smallest decoder of the two types, but the capacity is significantly higher than the previous decoders, especially the dielectric strength of up to 60V.

The decoders MX630 are part of a "large family" that includes the MX620 miniature decoder, the 21-pin MX64D, and the sound decoder MX640, which all use the same software. This brings all ZIMO decoders even closer in terms of driveability and range of CV's and functions.

The decoder specifications feature continuous current 1.2 A (MX630H: 1.8 A); 6 Function outputs (500 mA each); DDC, Motorola, DC Analog, and AC Analog; SUSI; 2 Servo outputs; RailCom; update capability; and apply to N and HO scales. The MX630 features nine wires (120 mm); MX630R features NEM 652, and 8-pin plug on 65 mm wires; MX630F is available with NEM 651, 6-pin plug on 65 mm wires; MX630P with PluX-16 socket (15-pins); MX630H (high-output version, 1.8A with nice wires; and MX630V1, and MX630V5 (low voltage supply for functions, 1.5V or 5.0V) with ten wires.

The following common characteristics apply to all Zimo Decoders (MX620, MX630, MX64D, MX640): Motor and function current 1.2 to 2.0A (MX630 versions) or 0.8A (MX620); over-current protection (with tolerance for short-term increase to 2 or 3 A) and thermal protection; and six direct function outputs (MX630 versions) or four direct outputs (MX620), at least 0.5A each. To find a full list of details contact the company. The suggested retail prices are $40.00 for the MX630, and $42.00 for the MX630R.

Zimo Agency of North America, 1195 Velrose Dr., Kelowna, BC V1X 6R7; 250-765-7017; Fax: 250-765-7017; E-mail: info@mrsonline.net; www.mrsonline.net

Complete HO/N System at Home
Deluxe Pro Cab at the Club
NCE Power CAB
NCE's NEW Power Cab is a complete, high end, 2 Amp DCC system in one compact hand-held throttle. Operate lights, sounds, program and more.
Your Power Cab also doubles as a regular Deluxe Pro Cab when you operate at a layout with our larger system.
NCE The Power of DCC
NCE Corporation
At your favorite DCC Dealer - NOW!
www.ncedcc.com
$189.95
Patents Pending
MSRP

Plan Your Next Model Railroad with a Solid Foundation
CALIFORNIA ROADBED CO., INC.
Resilient roadbed offering a solid foundation to lay track
FOR SAMPLE KIT
CALL: 530-347-9783
CALIFORNIA ROADBED Co. INC.
www.calroadbed.com
E-mail: calroadbedcoinc@yahoo.com
3568 Balls Ferry Road • Cottonwood, CA 96022

The 2009 NASG Convention

CURVES
FOR AND ABOUT S-GAUGE MODEL RAILROADING
A column by Dick Karnes

BY THE TIME you read this column, the 2009 National Association of S Gaugers (NASG) Convention, held in St. Louis last August, will have been long over. While attendance suffered somewhat because of the economy, Convention Chair Jim Bresnahan and his wife Annette did a great job! Everything went like clockwork, and there were some really good tours ranging from the Anheuser Busch brewery and Manufacturers Railroad to the St. Louis Arch and the Museum of Transportation. As a New York Central fan, I couldn't help shooting pix of the Museum's NYC Class L-2 Mohawk, currently undergoing cosmetic restoration.

Highlights

For me, one of the Convention highlights was the layout tour to Bob Jackson's "Central California Railroad," a DCC-controlled S-scale line based on the Santa Fe in the San Joaquin Valley. The layout is essentially complete; only a few structures are still under construction. The Central California observes no particular time frame. Even though the occasional E-6 and interloping SP cab forward coexist with a thoroughly modern intermodal terminal, it all works.

There's always something to learn from other people's railroads. The Central California's contribution was trees — lots of them. In particular, there is a 75-tree orange grove, each tree having 50 oranges, each constructed by Bob's wife Carolyn. But the real tree surprises were two types of palm trees with fronds made from feathers. These beautiful trees, hand-made by David Haehn, are available to anyone on a custom basis.

Another perennial highlight was the vendor display hall, which is the S scaler's "Brigadoon," the world's largest S-only hobby shop that materializes for only a few days and then disappears for another year. I managed to snare a couple of items I had been anticipating: a brass Canadian National combine kit by M.L.W. Services MLR, and a Laser Art No. 580 creamery kit.

S Promotion

Lee Johnson and I presented the newcomers' clinic, intended for first-time convention-goers. The primary questions from the attendees were essentially "what is the NASG doing to promote S gauge?" Fortunately, NASG Executive Vice President David Blum entered the hall at that time and took the floor so I didn't have to answer.

Personally, I can't say that the NASG has made any significant promotion headway. Of course there is the occasional NASG table with handouts at train shows. But of far greater importance, I think, is the increasing presence of S scale in general-circulation model railroad magazines. In particular,

Shown here are two types of palm trees, a 10-inch date palm (left) and a 15-inch Mexican Washingtonia palm. These spectacularly realistic palms were crafted by professional model builder David Haehn, who will make palm and pine trees for anyone in any scale on a custom basis. The palms shown are $28.95 each (minimum order is five trees). Smaller ones, for example HO palms, are $21.95 each. Pines in various sizes are available from $13 to $18.

The National Museum of Transport in suburban St. Louis has a marvelous collection of equipment from the mid-1800s to the Amtrak era. After prolonged weathering, the Museum has begun cosmetic restoration of New York Central Class L-2d Mohawk No. 2933, built by Alco in 1929.

Brian Jackson completed this intermodal container crane a day before his father, Bob Jackson, hosted his Central California Railroad open house. Bob runs ATSF diesels and SP steam, happily mixing eras. And when nobody's looking, Brian trots out his New York Central locomotives. NYC and palm trees — the mental image alone boggles the mind!

Railroad Model Craftsman, *Model Railroader*, *Scale Rails*, and of course *Model Railroad News* have all run S scale articles within the last twelve months.

Feel free to e-mail any comments or questions about S scale in general to scurves@modelrailroadnews.com or snail-mail them to S-Curves, Model Railroad News, P.O. Box 1080, Merlin, OR 97532-1080. Suggestions, contributions, and announcements are all welcome.

Manufacturers mentioned in this column:

M.L.W. Services
8 Treeline Court
Etobicoke, Ontario, M9C 1K8 Canada
416-626-8395
www.mlwservices.ca

Museum of Transportation

Transport Museum Association
2967 Barrett Station Road St. Louis, MO 63122
314-965-6885
http://transportmuseumassociation.org/

David Haehn, M-TEC
916-689-1658
E-mail: treemaker@frontiernet.net

Laser Art Structures

Branch Line Trains
333 Park Ave.
East Hartford, CT 06108
www.branchline-trains.com/laserart/intro.htm

Available NOW!

Trailer On Flat Car from

American Models!

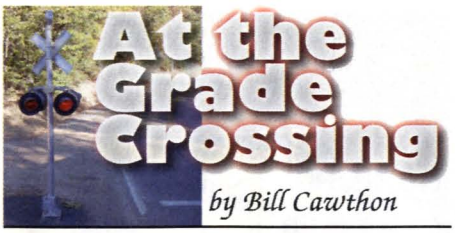
New AC Transformer / Sound Controller
Weighs 13 lbs! New On/Off Switch
Power for large steam engines
~~$109.95~~ Intro Price of $ 89.95

Select any of our 40' Trailers and mount it on any of our 25 available 46' Flat Cars with our new fifth wheel and wheel guards (kit also available separately) 46' Flat Car with TOFC mount $42.95 40' Semitrailers $9.95

American Models 10087 Colonial Industrial Dr. South Lyon, MI 48178
Phone 248-437-6800 Fax 248-437-9454
www.americanmodels.com

VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

More Muscle Cars and a Continental Flair



IT'S JUST BARELY past Halloween, so there's still time to add a new vehicle or two to the layout before you have to start thinking about what to get Aunt Myrtle for Christmas this year. There are some nice new vehicles out there and most should be available from your favorite hobby source by the time you read this. In fact, there are enough that I am just going to cover four of them briefly and schedule them for an in-depth look in issues to come.

Let's start with **Model Power**. Last month, I wrote about the 1970 Barracuda, the first of three new diecast American-prototype models. This month, I got to examine pre-production samples of other members of the trio, the new 1956 Lincoln Continental and the 1968 Chevrolet El Camino.

The 1956 Continental

The 1956 Lincoln Continental Mark II was intended to evoke memories of the beautiful Continentals of the 1940s. An 18-foot-long personal luxury car with a hood that seemed to go on forever, the Continental was Ford's challenge to the Cadillac Eldorado and a stark contrast to the Lincoln Premier which borrowed many of its styling cues from the 1955 Futura show car. The car had a special chassis to allow upright seating and a low roofline, each engine was individually tested and the car was largely hand-assembled. Despite high hopes in Dearborn, the new Eldorado Seville, the first hardtop Eldorado, with its flashy, finned rear styling, easily won the sales contest 3,900 to 2,550. Part of the problem was the Continental's price, nearly $10,000, which was 50 percent more than the Eldorado and darned close to Rolls Royce/Bentley territory. Believe it or not, that price didn't even include air-conditioning. To add insult to injury, in spite of the lofty price tag, Ford lost more than $1,000 per car. The elegant Lincoln did attract some noteworthy customers, though. Continental owners included Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Cecil B. DeMille, Nelson Rockefeller, Barry Goldwater and the Shah of Iran.

The new Model Power replica is the first ready-to-run HO replica of the Continental since the Wiking version went out of production in 1982. Having owned the **Wiking**, I can assure you the Model Power version is much nicer. While the deep, purplish-blue color on the pre-production sample is not going to appear in the production versions, it does a good job of showing off the quality molding and sharp printed detail.

The El Camino SS 396

While Ford may have been the first with a car-based pickup, Chevy really took the ball and ran with it. By the time production ended in 1988, over a million El Caminos and its GMC clones, the Sprint and Caballero, had been produced. The 1968 El Camino featured refreshed styling and a new model, the SS, which could be ordered with several versions of GM's hot 396 V8 engine, giving it "muscle car" status. 1968 was the best year yet for sales of the El Camino, with sales of 41,791, but that was just a taste of things to come: sales peaked at 58,008 in 1979.

The HO-scale version provided by Model Power is a replica of the El Camino SS 396. Before I go on, I need to remind you this was a pre-production approval sample, so the little errors I found may not be on the final versions. Overall, the car is quite nice; Model Power did a good job capturing the look of the prototype and the front end is especially noteworthy. Based on my experience with the Model Power Minis, I assume there's some good detail in the tooling but the paint was applied with a bit too much enthusiasm and a lot of the panel lines drowned in a sea of cheerful yellow.

A matte finish on the roof does a good job of simulating the vinyl used on the real car and there we come to the first of a couple of errors in the paint/print: on the real El Camino, the vinyl roof has a flat bottom on the C-pillar which then angles up to meet the bed. As you can see on the model, the line simply goes straight from the rear of the door to the bed. There is also a thin black stripe running the length of the truck that, based on the references I was able to find, didn't exist on the full-size version. I am not sure whether it's supposed to represent a trim strip, or just some added decoration, but on the real thing, it would definitely be an aftermarket item. The last quibble regards the rear of the vehicle. Model Power did replicate the blacked-out trim running across the tailgate, but they overlooked the reversing or backup lights that are fitted in the trim.

I am looking forward to the final versions of these new Minis, we've been waiting a long time and it looks like the wait was worth it.

Shown here are pre-production samples of the new 1968 Chevrolet El Camino and 1956 Lincoln Continental Mark II. The Continental's deep blue will be replaced by black in the production run.

The 1970 Camaro

Back in the April issue, I mentioned that **Brekina** had announced a 1970 Chevrolet Camaro as a May release. Since there were some issues involved, I said I was not sure the models would be available in the U.S. Well, I am happy to say you will be able to add one of the best-looking pony cars to come out of Detroit: I have a white Camaro Rally Sport and a black Super Sport 350 sitting on my desk. Both are finished in Brekina's "Top Decoration" trim and

Brekina's new 1970 Camaros will be sold in North America. They will be offered in Rally Sport (white) and a Super Sport 350 (black) versions.

River Point Station will be bringing this sharp 1971 Hemi 'Cuda to us, hopefully before the end of the year. Image courtesy of River Point Station.

look mighty good. I was able to get them from Euro Rail Hobbies & More Inc., a hobby shop in Langley, British Columbia. This was my first experience with Euro Rail Hobbies and I must say it was quite pleasant. In fact, I have already placed a second order with them. I got those shown here from their first shipment, which is already sold out, but a second shipment should have been received by the time you read this. You will also be able to order the Camaros from my old friends Trip and Cheryl Aiken of Truck Stop Models. They made the move from Minden, Nevada to Cody, Wyoming and have a new website that is easier than ever to use. As I am writing this in mid-September, I have not yet found any other sources for these models in North America. Sadly, I only get to enjoy our little GMs for a short time; they're off to Wayne Calder, a major-league Camaro fan, who will be doing a thorough review for *Model Railroad News*.

The 1971 'Cuda

I got my first good look at one more muscle car from the golden age of American horsepower: the 1971 Plymouth Hemi 'Cuda that will be available from **River Point Station**. Ron Elsdoerfer tells me he hopes to have these available before the end of the year in several factory colors like Curious Yellow (If you're not old enough to know that reference, I am not going to be the one to explain it) and In-Violet. Around 1970, the Detroit car companies, in an effort to be "cool," were giving their paints all sorts of names that they would probably be embarrassed by today.

If you're planning to attend the Amherst Railway Society's Springfield show next January 30 and 31, there should be some superb HO vehicles on display. I understand the 1/87 Vehicle Club will be hosting a section of the show. More details as I have them.

That's it for this time but don't worry; there's more to come. Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving: I'll see you next month at the grade crossing.

—

If you have questions or comments for Bill Cawthon about model vehicles, e-mail them to: Gradecrossing@modelrailroadnews.com or snail-mail them to Grade Crossing, Model Railroad News, P.O. Box 1080, Merlin, OR 97532-1080.

Mentioned in this month's column:

HO-Scale Diecast Vehicle Models

19480 1956 Lincoln Continental, white, MSRP: $5.49

19481 1956 Lincoln Continental, black, MSRP: $5.49

19482 1956 Lincoln Continental, light blue, MSRP: $5.49

19491 1968 Chevrolet El Camino, maroon, MSRP: $5.49

19492 1968 Chevrolet El Camino, blue, MSRP: $5.49

19493 1968 Chevrolet El Camino, yellow, MSRP: $5.49

Model Power
180 Smith St. Farmingdale, NY 11735
631-694-7022 • Fax: 631-694-7133
www.modelpower.com

—

HO-Scale Plastic Vehicle Models

19900 1970 Camaro Rally Sport, white, MSRP: $16.98

19901 1970 Camaro Super Sport 350, black, MSRP: $16.98

Brekina Modellspielwaren GmbH
Carl-Benz-Str. 1 79331 Teningen Germany
www.brekina.de

Imported by:

Euro Rail Hobbies & More Inc.
1526 232nd Street Langley, B.C, V2Z 2W9
Toll-Free: 866-799-6098 • Fax: 604-533-7277
www.eurorailhobbies.com

—

Truck Stop Models
16 Wall Street Cody, Wyoming 82414
Fax: 307 587- 6315
www.truckstopmodels.com

—

1971 Hemi 'Cuda Convertible, MSRP: $19.00 each

524-4328.31 Sno-White, red interior and boot, gray fascia, chrome bumpers

524-4328.32 Curious Yellow, black interior and boot, body-colored fascia and bumpers

524-4328.36 Sassy-Grass Green, white and black interior, black boot, green trim

524-4328.39 Tor-Red (shown), black interior and boot, matching trim

524-4328.47 In-Violet, white and black interior, white boot, chrome

River Point Station
115 Maple Street Warwick, RI 02888-2130
401-467-6907 • Fax: 401-467-5885
www.riverpointstation.com

Great Customer Service & Prices!
Complete DCC Sales & Installations
HO, N, Z and Lionel Trains and Supplies
Consignments Welcome — Advance Reservation Specials
HO & N Scale Lumber Loads... REAL WOOD!
RAIL ROAD CROSSING
1809 NE 39th Av • Portland, OR 97212
503-284-1912 • Fax 503-284-2920 • Orders 1-877-284-1912
www.hobbysmith.com
THE Hobby Smith
"Specializing in Ferroequinology"
Tues – Fri: 10-6
Saturday: 10-5
Sunday: 12-4
Closed Monday

Your legacy fleet

By John Sipple

I'VE STOPPED by this topic on several occasions in the past but I've never made it the central topic of a column before. Last month, Editor Bill Cawthon opined about his own legacy fleet and the fear of going DCC. Would some of them get left behind? Would it bankrupt him to convert them all? Wasn't it likely that many of them couldn't be converted at all?

Most model railroads are very heavy on locomotives. When you view the typical traffic of any railroad, the ratio of locos to cars that need pulling is actually rather low. In rather flat, Midwestern scenarios, two or three modern locos can handle a mixed freight with a hundred cars. In model railroading, we're more likely to see if we can put four locos on twenty cars.

Our acquisition habits and strategies change from decade to decade, and so the modeler who has been in this for over ten years might easily accumulate a half dozen locos a year and have a legacy fleet of sixty or so going into DCC conversion. Don't hit yourself; you haven't done anything wrong — yet!

Combing through your roster

I think model locos get handled too much. Railroads get them delivered and then either run 'em or park 'em. The Motive Power Superintendent doesn't pick up and handle his locos; he works with a roster. It tells him all the relevant information about each unit, including technical details that would help determine where it could and could not be assigned. I also believe in having a roster of my own locomotives. There are several ways this could be done on a computer, a spreadsheet coming to mind first. A database would work, too.

Every locomotive should have a value relative to DCC conversion. If it's already converted, it goes into that category, and you know how you're going to start. I'd rate these locos as a #5. If it is ready to be converted because it has the correct plug or socket already inside the locomotive, that's very good and should be rated a #4. If it is like the old Athearn Blue Box locos, this is a fairly easy conversion using some soldering and a little mechanical work but no modification of the outer shell or the rest of the machine. Locos like that are a #3. The next step down are the locomotives that require some real work to separate the power pickups from the motor leads and necessitate considerable disassembly and perhaps some filing or drilling. This kind of grim work rates a #2.

Finally, there are some steamers that have the block of the motor screwed to the frame such that there is no satisfactory method of separating the motor and insulating it without throwing the worm out of alignment with the helical gear. I'm not going to say it can't be done, but it would take some very clever and interesting work, perhaps involving a new motor and alteration of the basic mounting. This model is going to be disassembled on your workbench for a long time to come, which is why this is rated as a #1.

Suppose you went through your roster and numbered all of them according to this set of values. Now you're acting like a motive supe, and your very next step would be to apply a similar 5 to 1 scale in terms of how badly you'd like to have this old girl running on your layout. If you add the numbers together from the two columns, you'd have a combined value ranging from ten down to two. You could also order your roster in a manner that will let you start working on the easiest to convert that are also your dearest friends.

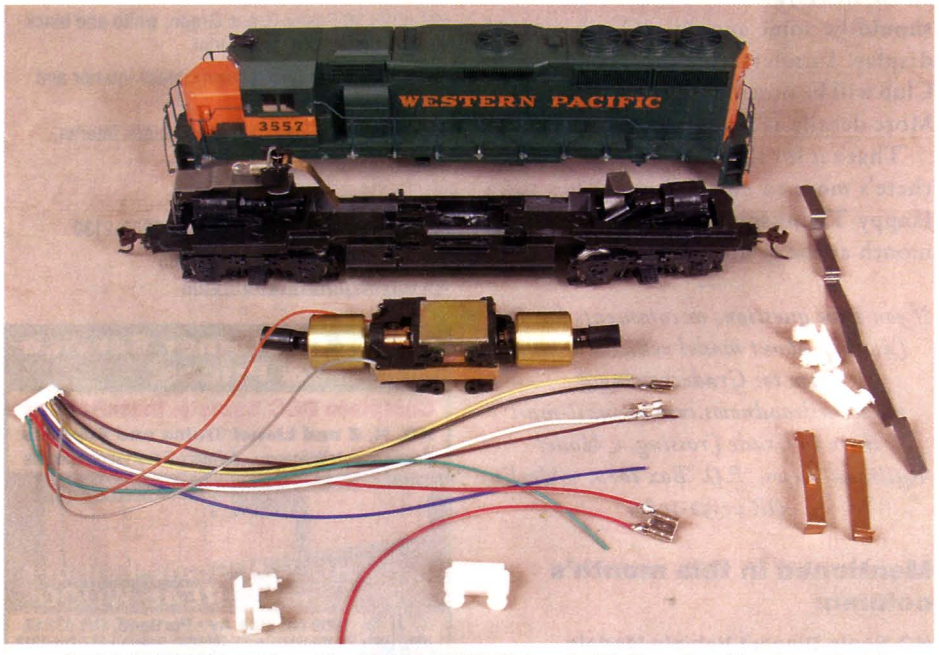
Yeah, you may convert a six that's five for easy conversion but one for lack of interest, only now that you can convert it, you suddenly find it more desirable. Perhaps you have an old rat that really needs to have a rebuild of the motor and trucks. The fact that you can convert it to DCC at the same time might give you the incentive to give the rascal a shot.

Roster management lets you work through these issues without banging the fleet around with a lot of handling, and it gives you a record of your thinking. Also, you can change your thinking and revalue an item.

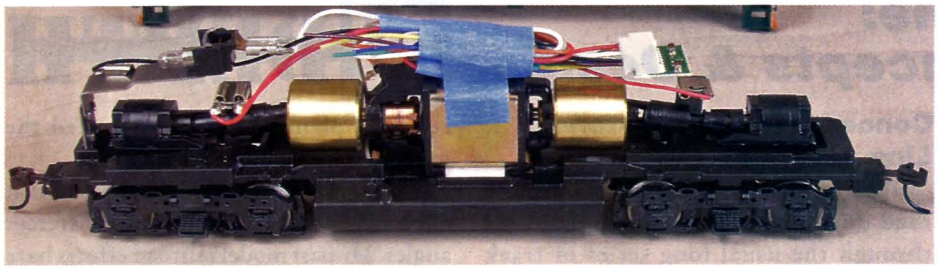
Conversion

If you own any models that have a DCC-ready socket inside, all you have to do is open it up and install the correct decoder. The directions that come with a loco should tell you if there is a plug and where it is. I've converted over a hundred locomotive in scales from N to G, and it all gets pretty similar and familiar over time.

Most locos have either the 8-pin NMRA socket or the 9-pin JST plug, but there are other variations. In Large Scale, the Aristo-Craft Super Plug has the amperage



Back in 2003, I did a review of the Digitrax DH123AT decoder kit. Since then it has been altered to work on new Blue Box kits so that no soldering is needed. This image shows the motor out of an older style kit, which has to be done because the motor is grounded to the frame, which is grounded to the pick-ups on one side. Can't have that! Not shown in either photo but included in the package is the DH123 decoder that simply plugs into the JST connector.



Here's my completed installation, all bundled up and taped in place. Hanging out over the rear truck is a dummy board, installed to remind us that you can replace the 9-pin JST decoder with a dummy plug, converting your hauler back to pure DC power, if you wish. Also, while you're inside the loco, you might want to convert it to LED lamps on both ends.

capability for that gauge. There are other plug-and-socket styles, too, though they may be less common. The key is to find out what the connection type is and order up a decoder that matches it.

There is a group of decoders that are called "Drop In" decoders because they replace the entire power board of the locomotive. The wire connections to the old power board come from the factory with wires through holes in tabs on the board and then rubber or plastic grimps are pushed on to hold the wires in place.

The replacement decoder uses the same grimps and generally has the wires in about the same place. As a rule, I prefer to solder the wire connections to the new decoder, since that holds and electrically connects them, too. I'd use a 10 to 15 watt soldering pencil and rosin-core solder. Due to the wiring and possible soldering, these drop-ins are really a #3 on my chart.

The old Athearn Blue Box kits are a lot of fun and low-priced, and the conversion isn't a hard business at all. Silent decoders really only make seven connections, and they are color coded. Red is right pick-up from the rail while Black is left pick-up. Similarly colored, the motor terminals are Orange and Gray. The lights use a common, positively polarized lead that is colored Blue. The headlight is White while the backlight is Yellow. Without doing any more connecting than that, you can take most Blue Box locos and convert them to DCC. In fact, Digitrax has a kit for that exact purpose that requires no soldering. If you have doubts about doing your own wiring, buy a kit, make the installation, and then you'll know how and can do it yourself from then on.

Dang! Burned up another decoder!

Really, cooking off decoders is very preventable. When you do your own wiring, it's a little like doing a crossword puzzle. Most folks work the puzzle with a pencil and not a pen because they might make a mistake. Putting a new installation on hot rails is like doing a puzzle with an inkpen, only messed up puzzles don't smoke! To give yourself a safe route to follow, first put the loco on a programming track and use direct or paged mode programming. Your system will detect the short without throwing enough current at it to burn anything. If you get no shorts and the change of address number takes place as it should, you've probably got a good installation, and it's safe to put it on the mainline.

And in the end...

You will probably have some locos left over that never get decoders. I used to have a lot more than I do now. I sold some of them and put the money toward new locos with the decoders already installed. You can install your own sound, but I generally don't. I prefer the results I get from the factory sound, installed and ready to run. I've got some other locos I've placed on display. A few others I'd put on dead spurs on my layout so I could enjoy their appearance without having to monkey around with the machinery. Take it step-by-step and loco-by-loco, and you'll deal with your legacy roster.

—

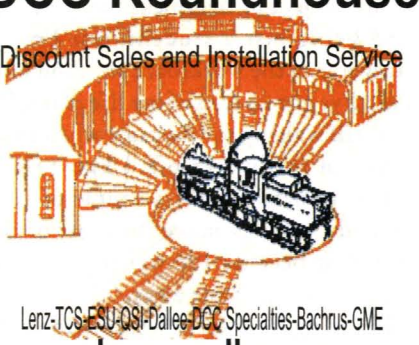
If you have questions, answers, suggestions, tips, or comments about DCC and the topic in this column, email me at: dcc@modelrailroadnews.com or send a letter to: DCC, c/o Model Railroad News, P.O. Box 1080, Merlin, OR 97532-1080

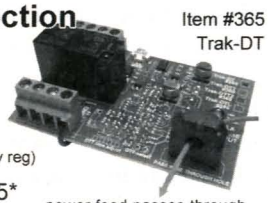
Products mentioned

DH123AT decoder with installation kit, MSRP: $24.99.

Digitrax, Inc.
2443 Transmitter Rd Panama City FL 32404-3157
850-872-9890 • Fax: 850-872-9557
www.digitrax.com

Whistle Stop Trains
Your Complete Model Railroad Store
❖
All Scales — Z through G
New and Used
We Buy and Consign Collections
❖
Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, Closed Sunday
11724 SE Division Street • Portland, OR 97266
Phone: 503-761-1822 • Fax: 503-761-1861
Web Site: wsor.com

DCC Roundhouse
Discount Sales and Installation Service

Lenz-TCS-ESU-QSI-Dallee-DCC Specialties-Bachrus-GME
www.dccroundhouse.com

Block Detection
Item #365
Trak-DT
$29.95* ea.
Starter set:
$99.95*
(incl 3 Trak-DT's&12v reg)
Six for $174.95*
(req. 12v regulated DC)

power feed passes through sensor for detection / activation when current flows.

Automatic Back-N-Forth for DC track power.

1 track		2 tracks	
#561	1 amp $39.95	#562	1 amp $54.95
#563	5 amp $44.95	#564	5 amp $59.95

#609 - 1 track any length, 5 amp load $89.95

LED Regulated Lighting
adj. intensity -» Super Bright to dim

#2379 - Warm White
#2380 - Cool White
size: 2" to 10" x 1/2"
$29.95 each
All items: Made in U.S.A
Orders require $11 min. s/i, PA res. + 6% sales tax.
Visit our web site for more details!
DALLEE ELECTRONICS, Inc. Est. 1976
246 W. Main St., Dept. MRRN
Leola, PA 17540
(717) 661-7041
Catalog $12.50, MRR Wiring Guide $17, both $26
FREE from our web site! www.dallee.com
U.S. funds only - no stamps! (outside US add extra postage)

PRR Keystone Line: Introduction, Concepts & Design

N-DEPTH

by Steven Goehring

WELCOME to this month's N-Depth column, home of soul-searching, destiny deciding, and taking the road less traveled... among other exaggerated, sentimental page clutter that serves no real purpose. So, considering that the above fluff is not my topic, why would I open my article like that? What the heck has happened to *MRN's* wandering Pennsylvanian writer?

In many ways, I am in a state of in-betweenness right now. I'm not a teenager at home any longer, but I'm not out on my own. I'm beginning to reach beyond being just a student, but I'm certainly not in the workforce yet. And most of all, I've got an idea of my life plans, but I am still waiting for the time when those plans can really take off. I know that I will be in-between for a couple of years yet, and I want to make the most of this time. Just because I'm waiting does not mean I wish the time away.

In trying to enjoy this transition time, I am working on building a model railroad to fit with this period of change and relative instability. So I have planned and begun work on a model railroad that will fit well in my transition time and also function well during my early adult years. Thankfully, being an N-scale model railroader gives me advantages that other scales lack in making a layout to adapt to limited stability, space, and time.

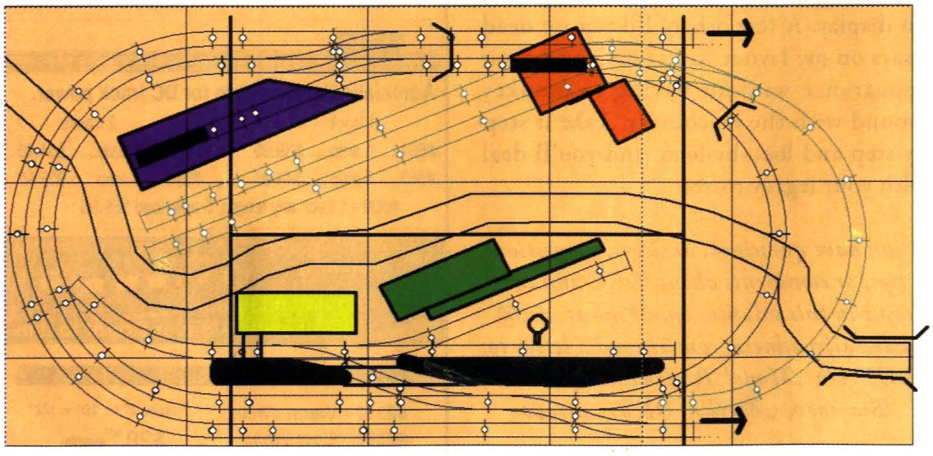
Concepts of the Keystone Line

I started planning my new model railroad during this past summer. I went through the usual long series of track plans, refining the overall size of the layout, and combining the best features of many track plans. I had a specific set of goals in mind to push the quality of this railroad beyond my previous efforts.

First of all, I decided that I would not use Code 80 rail. I have brought my models and scenery skills up to the point that the oversized rail is the greatest visual drawback of my photographs; I knew it was time to upgrade. The release of Atlas' Code 65 True-Track in N scale allowed me to consider a smaller code of rail while also conveniently eliminating my least favorite model railroading job of all: ballasting the track. With the gravel roadbed already built in and the rails made closer to scale size, True-Track was the ideal track system for my current wishes.

Second, I had continually seen the need for staging space for trains. Mere storage yards for loose freight cars were not good enough anymore; I needed tracks hidden from view that had the length and connections to hold entire trains, and let those trains run out and onto the visible layout with ease. I determined how long a train I would want to run, and planned sidings to exceed the measured lengths of those trains.

Finally, I needed to build a railroad that allowed photography from many different angles. My past model railroad efforts have often resulted in railroads where only a few scenes are easy to photograph well. I wanted to set up this railroad to run along the outside of a small table, keeping all tracks accessible while having sufficient backdrop behind them all. By running a double-track mainline around the outside of a rectangular table, I gave myself a lot of ground to pose photographs on, and by planning a mountain in the middle of the railroad, I ensured sufficient near-background material that given a good distant-background poster, I could take excellent photos from any angle.



Here is a map of my current model railroad plan, the Keystone Line. The layout is really a two-deck railroad with hidden staging below (hence the arrows indicating the ramp tracks curving down out of sight.) The underground tracks will be the topic of a later article. Tunnel entrances are marked with black arches and the bold black lines indicate divisions in the 30-inch x 15-inch modules where the layout can be pulled apart for storage or movement. Industries are color coded, with Plum Scientific in purple and Huntingdon Coal Co. mine in orange, (with the tracks drawn in gray running up the mountain to meet it.) Nazareth Musician's Depot is shown in yellow, Galeton Tractor & Motor Supply in green, and the Bluebell Express loading platform and the town passenger station in black. A helper locomotive service track is located above the station platform.

Features and Dedications

I designed the Keystone Line to be distinctly Pennsylvanian in every way, and as such, I chose to name the trackside industries for the parts of Pennsylvania that I most like. The railroad itself is named for the state symbol, also adopted famously in Pennsylvania Railroad paint schemes.

We all know model railroading is a big part of life, but none the less, there's a lot more to life than trains. That isn't just a reminder of dismal realities, though; it's a chance to further enhance our experiences with our hobby. In that same way, I let things and memories I treasure in real life influence little things in my model railroads. My recent way of doing that has been dedicating industries alongside my tracks to the memories or things I like most.

The various trackside businesses are named for towns that have meaning or importance to me. At the same time, the fictional businesses are planned to make switching varied, interesting, and fun, and put a large variety of commodities on the Keystone Line's rails. Listed below are the names and short histories of my made-up customers, and why the towns they are named for deserve their places on the Keystone Line.

Starting from the top of the layout, a single siding extends into the large brick building housing the Plum Scientific Company. Plum Scientific was initially a researchers' resource center for chemicals

and equipment, and they started a thriving business by expanding to supply science educators as well. The model industry ships and receives boxcars of many different loads and receives tank cars of chemicals. The real town of Plum is outside of Pittsburgh, and it earns its spot on the Keystone Line by virtue of being home to a sweet girl I'll call Nikki. She's been a source of conversation, care, and inspiration for me, and I'm very thankful for her. She means something to me, and whether together or apart, that earns Plum a spot among the other towns named on my railroad.

Moving down the map and up the hill, we reach the Huntingdon Coal Co. mine. The mine company started around Huntingdon and expanded to include this location. The real Huntingdon, Pennsylvania is home to Juniata College, and by extension, to me. It's also close enough to the Broad Top Mountain coal veins that it makes sense as a coal company name. Tracks run up the side of the mountain to reach the model coal tipple, and it will have space to store a coal train sized appropriately for the railroad.

Next down the map is Galeton Tractor & Motor Supply. Like Plum Scientific, a small company started out selling small and ended up building big. Galeton Tractor expanded far from the north-central PA town that bears its name. Galeton earned its dedication here for being home to my grandmother years ago, and a favorite family vacation area. This farmer's mechanical supply and tractor dealer receives diesel fuel, motor parts, and whole tractors, making for tank car, boxcar, and flat car loads.

Just next door is Nazareth Musician's Depot, a dealer of musical instruments and related supplies that shares space with the town passenger station. While they do much of their business locally, large outbound orders and incoming loads move by rail in boxcars. Nazareth is an appropriate town to lend its name to this business not just for being the town where I grew up, but it is also home to a lot of great musical groups and businesses.

Just to the right of that on the map is Bluebell Express, a Less-than-Carload (LCL) shipper located right next to the passenger station. While Bluebell Express usually just exchanges goods with the baggage cars of passing passenger trains, it occasionally receives boxcars or other cars for special loads, using the helper locomotive service track behind its station to avoid fouling the mainline. The town of Bluebell is outside of Philadelphia, and it's home to my aunt and also where my parents lived.

The Project

The Keystone Line project has gone beyond merely building a model railroad, and now encompasses plans to facilitate product testing and magazine photography. The mainline is two tracks, and one of those tracks is built to be completely level and easy to measure its circumference/running length. This will serve as a speed testing ground for reviews. The variety of scenes (town, country, mountain, single-track, double-track, local tracks) will allow for the Keystone Line to provide *MRN* with a variety of convincing photographs, possibly even cover shots.

The layout itself will be a major test bed for Atlas True-Track, and Atlas has generously provided the track necessary to build the railroad. The track must blend well visually into a scenicked and detailed railroad. It must handle grade changes and must also stand up to being disassembled and split into multiple parts for storage and transport. Most of all, the track must be entirely reliable and derailment-free, as the mainline spends half of its time out of sight. Considering the importance of the hidden staging tracks in the plan, True-Track is getting a very serious test in this project. Its quality will make or break the railroad. But I'm not worried, not in the least. I trust that the new N-scale track products will measure up in every way. It's Atlas, after all.

I will write frequently about the project both here or on my weblog: www.mrnx-press.blogspot.com/. You can track the progress of the railroad and see how each idea plays out. You can also expect to see more about it here in N-Depth. After all, the space constraints and demand for detail of the Keystone Line make it a railroad only possible in N scale. So keep watching, and we'll see how N scale can provide a stable and enjoyable model railroad.

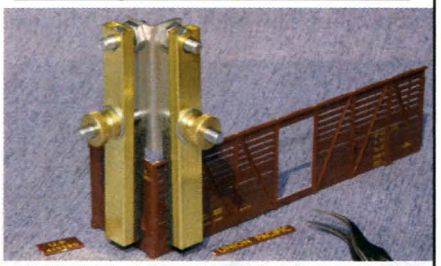
—

Feel free to E-mail any comments or questions about N scale in general to: ndepth@modelrailroadnews.com. Or write to: N-Depth, c/o Model Railroad News, P.O. Box 1080, Merlin, OR 97532-1080. Suggestions, contributions, and announcements are all welcome.

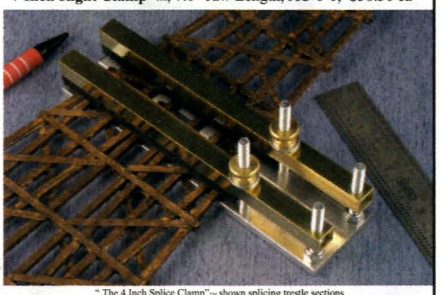
WE HATE TRACTION TIRES
...just like you !!
BULLFROG SNOT®
No more "rubber bands"
Create new tires
Replace missing tires
Fix old, tired tires
No special tools
No surgical skills
Universal, quick & easy
...and be ready to GRIN
Why don't engines come from the factory with grip by BULLFROG SNOT?
WWW.BULLFROGSNOT.COM

Ride Inside Your Model
Proud To Be An American Company
Wireless Color Camera Systems
Fits On Any Scale "Z" To "G"
300 foot + Range
12 Month Warranty
Complete Systems Start At $99.95
Tech Support Help Line
7 days a week
9:00AM—9:00PM EST
570-620-9080
Professional Custom Installation Available
Works With DCS, TMCC, & DCC
Customer Satisfaction Is Our Number One Goal
Wireless Micro Color Cam System
SJT Enterprises P.O. Box 753 Bartonsville, PA 18321
http://www.WirelessMicroColorCam.com

Coffman Graphic Solutions Co.
"The Right and Splice Clamps"™



"The Original Right Clamp"™ shown with Union Pacific Historical Society S-40-6 Stock Car Kit
"Mini Right Clamp"™, 1.0" Jaw Length, AC-2-2, $22.50 ea
"Original Right Clamp"™, 1.5" Jaw Length, AC-1-1, $23.50 ea
"Long Right Clamp"™, 2.75" Jaw Length, AC-3-2, $24.50 ea
"Large Right Clamp"™, 2.75" Jaw Length, AC-4-2, $25.50 ea
"4 Inch Right Clamp"™, 4.0" Jaw Length, AC-5-1, $33.50 ea
"7 Inch Right Clamp"™, 7.0" Jaw Length, AC-6-1, $38.50 ea



" The 4 Inch Splice Clamp"™ shown splicing trestle sections
"Original Splice Clamp"™, 1.5" Jaw Length, AC-21-1, $24.50 ea
"Long Splice Clamp"™, 2.75" Jaw Length, AC-22-2, $27.50 ea
"4 Inch Splice Clamp"™, 4.0" Jaw Length, AC-23-1, $33.50 ea
Please add $6.50 N. Am. or $13.00 Over-seas shipping per order.
Kentucky residents add 6% sales tax. Dealer inquires welcome.
1500 River Circle, Richmond, KY 40475-7907
Phone: 859-527-0476, Fax: 859-527-0485
www.coffmaneng.com randy@coffmaneng.com

No Space, No Problem

By Sawyer Berry

IN MY LAST COLUMN (in the May 2009 *MRN*), I wrote about my small desktop layout that I tore down. However, there is another option for making a small layout: dioramas. Now, I know what you're thinking when I mention the word diorama; you thought that a diorama was just used to display rolling stock, show off your scenery skills, practice new scenery skills, or just have a little fun and take a break from your layout. While a diorama serves these purposes, a few dioramas can be turned into a layout. How a person can do this, you might ask? Well, here's how.

If you just want to run trains through scenery and you're in N scale, like I am, you can just make a few dioramas six inch wide by several feet long. Then connect them together in a loop or perhaps something even more intriguing using sectional track and spare foam to bring the sectional track to the level of the dioramas' foam. If you want to make small town switching district, you could use a module style, and make a small framework underneath the foam to support it. Then you can plan to have the mainline, maybe a passing siding, and maybe even a long spur or two meet at right angles where the dioramas connect. If you're in HO scale, I'm not sure how well switching dioramas will work, but I think that some reasonably sized mainline dioramas could still be built in that scale. S scale, I have no idea and O scale or bigger, I doubt that this is a feasible idea, though I'd love to see someone prove me wrong.

Going back to my town idea, though, that may be too big for some people to store. If this is the case, you can still build a diorama layout with some local switching involved. There can be several dioramas that are just a mainline, and then maybe have a diorama with a team track, another with a lumber dealer, a third with a scrap yard, and then just keep going on with different small shipment industries that don't really require much in the way of structures. The wiring would be simple; since each module is rather short, one could use terminal rail joiners (such as though available from Atlas) to make connections where one diorama meets some sectional track or another diorama. Then you could either run some wire to connect these up, or use some plastic insulating rail joiners and several power packs to create blocks.

To store these dioramas, even though there will be scenery, you can stack them if you don't mind a little damage (damage should be minimal if you stack delicately), and any structures should be removable.

Here we see my whole riverside branchline diorama. The branch is in its usual state: undisturbed and unused. There are trains usually twice a week along the line. This was actually very easy scenery to build, taking only three days. In the inset, U23B #6330 roars down the mainline hauling a heavy train. The really funny thing: there's only one boxcar behind the U23B, but you never would have known it if I hadn't said anything. That's the beauty of diorama photography.

Figures and vehicles may or may not need to be removable; there is the potential for them to be knocked off, but if they are securely fastened, I'm not sure what would happen. If the dioramas are six inches wide to a foot wide or so, this will work nicely. Any larger, and I'm not sure.

However, if you have no wish to create something like that, dioramas are still great options if you can't find the space for a layout anywhere in your house. They are a great way to take pictures of your rolling stock and motive power (in fact, you may only need one freight car to give the illusion of a long train in the picture), and provide a great test bed for new products or skills you wish to experiment with. I'm sure almost anyone can find the space on a bookshelf to display a six-inch-wide by one-and-a-half-foot to two-foot long diorama. This also provides an excellent way to display your favorite rolling stock and locomotives.

Diorama themes can vary. My personal favorite is a mainline by some natural feature. The diorama I currently have is a mainline by a forest with a dirt road crossing. The diorama I'm working on will have a mainline by a swamp modeled after those found in the Pee Dee area of South Carolina. Also, one could model a particular location on a prototype mainline with a diorama.

My Experiences

In my case, I've built a display diorama, and am working on a second. My first diorama was built for four reasons: to test some scenery skills I had heard about and wanted to try, to see whether or not I liked fall colors, to test a foliage product from Woodland Scenics, and to create something to display rolling stock on and take pictures of my motive power and such on. This diorama accomplished what I wanted it to, and right now I have another started. This was originally going to be a mainline by a summer

forest and small industry; however, I need to practice creating Pee Dee area swamps, and this is the perfect opportunity to do so. I will also be testing many products, including Busch model water and a product called PerfectCast made by Skullduggery, Inc; both of which I found in my local hobby shop. The mainline on this diorama is down and ballasted, and the basic scenery in the front is done. I haven't worked on it for a while though, but am planning to begin work on it again soon.

At some point, I may clean the track on my dioramas and hook them up with some snap track to run trains. I have started four dioramas that will be an operating rail line: one yard and three industry dioramas. I've only operated on the yard diorama though. I could add both of my mainline dioramas in to add some scenery and mainline running.

As you can see, dioramas can be used for much more than just showing off rolling stock and motive power or testing something out (however, these are great functions of dioramas). If you like my ideas please use it. If you don't, I hope I've at least planted the basis of an idea, so the next time you're stuck for layout space, you'll consider a diorama layout or something similar.

—

If you have any questions, comments, tips, or suggestions concerning this column or model railroading in general, send them to: The Future of Model Railroading, c/o Model Railroad News, P.O. Box 1080, Merlin, OR 97532-1080 or e-mail to: tamr@modelrailroadnews.com

PULLING FOR THE TOP?

REBOXX WHEELS

800-935-2195 www.reboxx.com

Arrivals and Departures

Latest arrivals are NP "Holiday Lounge" sides in HO (#65, $31.75) and N (#565, $21.75). We have also retooled the #60 Milwaukee Road "Grove" cafe-parlor and #52 RPO-Express HO sides to fit the Walthers *Hiawatha* car bodies. Sadly, we have had to discontinue some older items due to insufficient sales and market forces. See our website for updated list. We still offer over 100 items for GN, NP, SP&S, CB&Q, BN, MILW, UP, PRR, NYC, SP, C&NW, IC, RI, B&O, C&EI, L&N, KCS, N&W, ERIE, ATSF, MP, CN, CP, VIA & Amtrak. Use with TSP, Rivarossi, Con-Cor, ECW, Bachmann, Kato, Walthers, our HO Body Kits, or in N ALM core kits or plastic dome car overlays. Send 2-oz. SSAE for catalog & bulletin. Through hobby shops or direct ($4.50 for shipping). www.brasscarsides.com

BRASS CAR SIDES

715 S. 7th St., St. Peter, MN 56082

Software for Model Railroaders

Handy Converter

- Scale conversion, metric conversion
- Grades, speed, wire size & more!

Fast Clock

- Up to 24 times faster than real-time

www.StansTrains.com Click Software

Motive Power, Rolling stock, Structure

SCALE PLANS

Send $2.00 for your catalog!

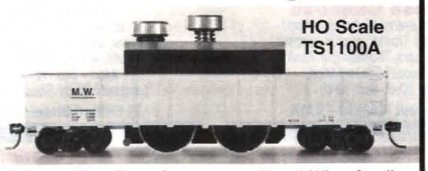
Underground Railway Press

PO Box 814MW

Brevard, NC 28712-0814

Z, Nn3, N, HOn3, HO, Sn3, S, On30, O & G

Track Cleaning Cars



HO Scale TS1100A

A free-rolling Cratex®, canvas or Handi-Wipes® roller set at an angle to the track scrubs the rails clean. Simple but effective.

Aztec Manufacturing
2701 Conestoga Dr., #113
Carson City, NV 89706
(775) 883-3327 phone
(775) 883-3357 fax
aztecmfg@usa.net

AZTEC Mfg. Company

www.aztectrains.com

RUSTIC RAILS™

HO and N scale 1860's to 1950's

OLD TIME DETAILS

City and farm Folk - Wagons
Farm animals - Wild animals
Cowboys - Railroad crews
Mining - Logging - Soldiers
Structures and Scenery

Select "Rustic Rails" on our website: www.musketminiatures.com
Or, send $3.00 for our illustrated catalog.

MUSKET MINIATURES, LLC
P.O. Box 1976, Dept. RN
Broomfield, CO 80038

Young Model Railroaders

The **Teen Association of Model Railroaders (TAMR)** is the group for all young model railroaders and railfans *(Adult members are also welcome.)*

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

- You'll receive the TAMR newsletter, *The Hotbox.*
- You will also receive our annual directory and will be eligible for regional activities.

SO JOIN THE FUN NOW!

- Dues are only $15 a year ($18, if 21 or older) in the US, Canada & Mexico. Overseas dues are $20 a year.

Write To: Tim Vermande, TAMR *Pivot Pin*
3645 Toronto Ct.· Indianapolis, IN 46268-1988
Email: PivotPin@TAMR.org • Website: www.TAMR.org
Make Checks Payable To TAMR

For information or to become a member...

Mardi Gras & Trains in Mobile, Alabama!

LOTS Winter Getaway - February 12-15, 2010

Deadline to register: December 14, 2009

Become a member of the Lionel Operating Train Society and join us for a weekend of Home Layout Tours and Mardi Gras fun in Mobile, AL! All tours depart and return to the Renaissance Riverview Hotel* in Mobile, AL.

Friday, February 12, 2010	Saturday, February 13, 2010	Sunday, February 14, 2010
Two Home Layouts (O, HO and N)	Azalea City Model RR (HO)	Bellingrath Gardens Tour
Foley Alabama Railroad Museum	Battleship USS ALABAMA	Bellingrath Home Tour
Lambert's Café Restaurant	Submarine USS DRUM	Two Home Layouts (O)
Wales West Light Railway	Mobile Carnival Museum	Dreamland BBQ Restaurant
Crewe of Columbus Parade	Mystics of Time Parade	

*Discount rate is $139 per night plus tax and parking.

30th Anniversary Special - Join LOTS for $30!

Membership Benefits

Switcher magazine!
Lionel Club Cars!
(Current Offer: Tennessee Aquarium Car)
Outstanding Website!
("Members Only" Track Changes)

"The Club for O-Gauge Operators" LIONEL OPERATING L.O.T.S. TRAIN SOCIETY www.lots-trains.org

Include:

Lionel Catalog Mailings!
Exciting Conventions!
(Next Stop: Hartford, CT July 12 - 17, 2010)
Club Owned Modular Layout!
(Kid friendly, interactive Lionel Layout!)

Call us at (513) 598-8240, visit www.lots-trains.org or write to LOTS, 6376 W. Fork Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45247

DEALER DIRECTORY

YOU CAN PLACE YOUR STORE'S AD HERE

Advertise Your Hobby Shop Here!

Reach out to local and regional customers that your regular local advertising misses.
MRN Dealer Directory • PO Box 1080
Merlin, OR 97532-1080
Fax 541-955-0346
e-mail: Directory@ModelRailroadNews.com
IT'S INEXPENSIVE, TOO! — ONLY $10 / MONTH!!!

ALABAMA, Pelham (Birmingham)

Oak Mountain Hobbies & Toys

Full service Hobby Shop
N, HO, O, G scales.
Authorized Lionel & MTH
Digitrax Dealer
Open Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat 10-5

2659 Pelham Parkway (205) 685-8980

ARIZONA, Lake Havasu City

My Train Shop

Competitive, friendly- Mohave & La Paz Cnty. Train Headquarters. All scales, scenery, Bldgs, Books & Special-Orders. Always a full library of How-to videos & train excursions for Free viewing!

1695 Mesquite Ave. #208A (928) 505-4044

ARIZONA, Mesa

Roy's Train World

35 years as Arizona's largest Model RR shop. Z, N, HO, O, & G Scale. Books, videos & more!
e-mail: trains@roystrainworld.com
web site: roystrainworld.com

1033 S. Country Club Dr. (480) 833-4353

CALIFORNIA, Anaheim Hills

Milepost 38 Model Trains

S. California's most complete train shop. 100% model RRing. Open 7 days a week. Details, supplies, books, video, DVDs. We install & support DCC! **Digitrax dealer**
www.milepost38modeltrains.com

5757-B E La Palma Ave. (714) 970-3751

CALIFORNIA, Clovis (Fresno)

Roy Ogle Trains & Things

Z-G scale trains & R/C airplanes
Hobby supplies
Digitrax & Lionel **Dealer**
www.roystrains.com Open Mon. - Sat. 10am-6pm

352 Pollasky Ave (559) 325-0102

CALIFORNIA, Concord

Just Trains

Largest selection in the East Bay. 93 foot operating HO layout. Buy -sell - trade - consign - repairs - detail parts in all scales. Lionel. Discount prices & friendly service.
www.just-trains.com

5650 Imhoff Drive Ste. H (925) 685-6566

CALIFORNIA, Culver City

Allied Model Trains

The friendly model railroad store
3 miles north of L.A.X.
HO & N Brass Märklin, Fleischmann, Digital, **Digitrax dealer**, Lionel, LGB, etc.
info@alliedmodeltrains.com

4371 S Sepulveda Blvd. (310) 313-9353

CALIFORNIA, Escondido

Value Craft

Large selection Z to G. LGB, Lehmahn, Bachmann, Lionel, Atlas, Athearn, Märklin, Micro-Trains, Piko, Woodland Scenics.
Great prices and selection.
Open 7 days: M-Fri. 10-7 Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6.

342 W. El Norte Pkwy. (760) 747-9222

CALIFORNIA, Gilroy

All Aboard Junction Train Store

Exclusively Trains! Gauges N - G. Athearn, Bachmann, Kato, Lionel Auth. V. dealer, LGB, USA, and more. Scratch bldg. supplies, kits, books, magazines.
www.allaboardjunction.com

8355 Monterey Street (408) 846-8841

CALIFORNIA, Gilroy

Flying Fortress Hobbies

HO and N Scale Trains. Model aircraft, cars, ships, armor, figures. R/C airplanes, Books, paints, tools,
Digitrax Dealer
Open: Tue. - Fri. 12:30-6:30, Sat. 10-4

7365 Monterey St. Ste. 101 (408) 842-0450

CALIFORNIA, Hollywood (North)

The Roundhouse

HO, N, Lionel, LGB, MTH, Märklin.
L.A.'s oldest train store, Discount prices!

Coffee pots on. Open 7 days.
roundhousetrains@gmail.com

12804 Victory Blvd. (818) 769-0403

CALIFORNIA, La Mirada

R Hobbies

We now carry Z, N, HO, S, O and G.
Digitrax dealer, Lionel, LGB, S-Helper.

Mon-Sat 10 am - 6 pm; closed Sun.

14269 Imperial Hwy (562) 777-9492

CALIFORNIA, Lakewood

Hobby Warehouse, Inc.

Trains, buildings & supplies. 40 years exp. HO, O, N, G gauges. **Digitrax dealer**. We can help. Great prices, great service from Great people. Open 7 days/ M-F 10-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-6. www.ahobbywarehouse.com

4105 E. South St. (562) 531-8383

CALIFORNIA, Lodi

Roger's Railroad Junction

Z-N-HO-HOn3-O27-G
Engines, Rolling Stock, Buildings, Scenery, Detail Parts, DCC plus Much More!

105 S. Sacramento St. (209) 334-5623

CALIFORNIA, Napa

The Loose Caboose

Napa Valley's premiere hobby shop! **Digitrax dealer**, Trains, plastic models, rockets, slot cars,Thomas the Tank Engine & more! Closed Mon. Tue-Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5.

820A 3rd Street (888) 99-TRAIN

CALIFORNIA, Pasadena

The Original Whistle Stop, Inc.

Model rail specialists since 1951.
All scales Z to G. **Digitrax** & NCE **dealer**.
Complete stock brass imports, new & used. Books, structures, tools & detail parts.
Open 7 days. www.thewhistlestop.com

2490 E Colorado Blvd. (626) 796-7791

CALIFORNIA, Roseville (Sacramento)

Railroad Hobbies

Exclusively model trains since 1989. Atlas, Athearn, **Digitrax dealer**, Kato, Lionel, LGB, MDC, Märklin, Brass Imports, books, detail parts. Everyday low prices. Open 7 days. www.rrhobbies.com

119 Vernon St. (916) 782-6067

CALIFORNIA, Sacramento

Bruce's Train Shop

6,000 square feet of trains
www.brucestrainshop.com
All scales, NCE, **Digitrax** & QSI **dealer**.
Open 7 days a week. Fax (916) 485-8028
Toll free 1-877-276-8383

2752 Marconi Ave. (916) 485-5288

CALIFORNIA, San Francisco

Franciscan Hobbies

TRY US
Digitrax Dealer
www.franciscanhobbies.com

1920A Ocean Avenue (415) 584-3919

CALIFORNIA, Santa Clara

The Train Shop

100% trains. Always discount prices!
Digitrax dealer.
Tues. - Sat. 9:30-6:00.
Mon 9:30-4:00. Closed Sun.
Dennis Cole.

1829 Pruneridge Ave. (408) 296-1050

CALIFORNIA, Tehachapi

Trains Etc.

Visit us and the Tehachapi Loop
N thru G - Also Trains with History
Mon thru Sat 9:30-5:00 & Sun 11:00-4:00
Drop off for Lionel repair. **Digitrax dealer**
www.trainsetc.biz or trainsetc@sbcgobal.net

114 W. Tehachapi (661) 822-7777

CALIFORNIA, Westminster (Orange Co.)

Arnie's Trains

Huge selection on display!
World Famous
Since 1977.
www.arniestrains.com

6452 Industry Way (714) 893-1015

COLORADO, Colorado Springs

Discount Trains

Full service store for all skill levels.
Z, N, HO, O, G scales.
LGB, Märklin, MTH, **Digitrax dealer**, Lionel Repair. www.sunbirdtrainmart.com
Open Mon-Sat 10-7:30, Sun 12-5.

3311 N Academy Blvd. (719) 574-2080

COLORADO, Denver

Caboose Hobbies

Your train store since 1938. On-line catalog with more than 50,000 items in stock. www.caboosehobbies.com
Advance reservation on new products.
Fax: (303) 777-0028 Order: 800-886-1813

500 S. Broadway (303) 777-6766

COLORADO, Palisade

Black Bear Emporium LLC

Your Western Slope Model Railroad Store
Standard & Narrow Gauge in all scales
Kits, RTR, Gifts, Puzzles & more
Find us on eBay at ohkwarisales
Trackside on the UP/D&RGW mainline

117 South Main St. (970) 464-4675

COLORADO, Westminster (Denver)

Mizell Trains, Inc.

Featuring "The Wall of Trains." Lionel-MTH-LGB. Rocky Mts. largest selection of trains. All brands/scales. Diecast- models & hobbies. Open 7 days. Auth. Lionel service center. www.Mizelltrains.com

3051 W. 74TH Ave. (303) 429-4811

CONNECTICUT, Branford

Branford Hobbies

Trains, planes, boats. cars. **Digitrax** & NCE **dealer**. Closed Sun & Mon. Call for Christmas hrs! Open Tue, Wed, Thu 10-5:30, Fri 10-9, Sat 10-5. (West Main)

609 W. Main (rear) (203) 488-9865

CONNECTICUT, Manchester

Time Machine

All scales Z-G, MTH, Lionel, Märklin, Walthers, **Digitrax dealer**. Large operating layouts. www.timemachinehobby.com
Mon - Sat: 10-8, Sun: 10-6
"Largest Hobby Shop in New England"

71 Hilliard Street (860) 646-0610

CONNECTICUT, Waterford

Tacdab Model Trains

BLI, Blue Line, Canadian MT, Precision Craft, Spectrum, & more. Accessories, gift cert. **Digitrax** & NCE **dealer**, discounts. Shop for your model RR needs in SE Conn. e-mail: tacdab@att.net

611 Vauxhall St. Ext. (860) 447-9023

FLORIDA, Ft. Lauderdale (Plantation)

Warrick's Hobby Superstore

Brass, plastics, railroad items of all types G, Z, N, HO, HOn3, On2, On3, On30 Lionel, MTH. Kits & supplies
Since 1972. Mon-Sat 10-8, Sun 11-5
www.HobbySuperStore.com

7676 Peters Road (954) 42-Hobby

FLORIDA, Lantana

The Depot Hobby Shop

Full line Hobby Shop specializing in Trains
Mon-Fri 10:00-6:00, Sat-Sun 10:00-4:00
www.depothobbyshop.com

1/2 mile east of I-95 exit #61

518 W Lantana Rd. (561) 585-1982

FLORIDA, Ocala

Trains of Ocala

A complete line of model railroading. Open 6 days a week. Check our prices! All major credit cards accepted. Fax 352-369-5153
www.trainsofocala.com
trains1@atlantic.net

1729 NE 8th Road (352) 369-5152

FLORIDA, Panama City

Kirklands Hobbies of PC

N, HO, O, O27 scales. Kits/ RTR. Bdwy. Ltd., **Digitrax**, NCE & Walthers **dealer**. Woodland Scenics, Bldg. supplies, tools & books. Mon - Thu: 8:30 - 3, Fri - Sat: 8-5. fax: 850-215-8203

1525 Lisenby Ave. (850) 215-8202

FLORIDA, Pensacola

Trains by Johnson

Competitive prices, friendly service. All makes, models, trains & accessories, buy / sell. Z-G. Lionel, Micro-Train, MTH, USA, & **Digitrax dealer**. Directions: Old Palafox at 10 Mile Rd. www.trains-usa.com

10412 N. Palafox St. (850) 478-8584

FLORIDA, Pinelias Park

H & R Trains, Inc.

Last decent place in FL not endorsed by Mickey Mouse. Huge inventory in all gauges. Great store, come see!
Daily 10-6, Fri til 9, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5
www.hrtrains.com

6901 US 19 No. (727) 526-4682

FLORIDA, Sarasota

Gulf Coast Model Railroad

Trains, trains, trains.
Model railroading at its best.
Visit us in store or
on the Web at www.gcmrr.com
Open Mon-Thurs 10-6, Fri til 8, Sat 10-5.

3222 Clark Rd. (941) 923-9303

FLORIDA, Spring Hill

Dana's Railroad Supply

HO/N/O scale and train supplies.
DCC installation, **Digitrax dealer**.
Operating 20 x 20 ft. HO layout.
Hours: Tues-Sat 10-5pm

4042 Deltona Blvd. (352) 684-2484

GEORGIA, Buford

Trainmaster Models

Quality Selection & Service
Discount pricing in all scales, **Digitrax dealer**.
Tue-Thu 11-7, Fri-Sat 11-6, Sun 1-6,
Closed Mon. www.Trainmastermodels.com
Across from NS Mainline. In downtown Buford.

601 E. Main St. (678) 546-3600

GEORGIA, Martinez (Augusta)

DCC Installs and Sales

Digitrax Dealer
Your digital command control Headquarters! NCE, Soundtraxx, QSI, TCS. All other systems available, and accessories.

3414 Cannon Gate Dr. (706) 860-3768

GEORGIA, Riverdale

Riverdale Station Inc.

Atlanta's favorite train store for over 26 years! Catering to the serious model railroader. Quality kits, detail parts, & brass models, **Digitrax dealer**. Open Tues - Sat: 10 - 5:30. Fax (770) 907-4992

6632 Hwy. 85 (770) 991-6085

Taking a trip!

Bring MRN Along!

Check out the Dealer Directory.
Your map to local hobby shops!

GEORGIA, Savannah

Bull Street Station

HO, N, O, O27 RR Supplies
Large Selection Detail Parts for HO and N. Everything for Model RR except the table. Ship anywhere. E-mail: bullst@bellsouth.net
web site: www.bullst.com (800) 611-8521

151 Bull Street (912) 236-4344

ILLINOIS, Bloomington

Hobbyland Inc.

We carry a large selection of G, O, HO & N gauge trains. RTR train sets in many of these gauges. Engines, rolling stock, track, accessories, buildings & scenery. www.hobbylandfunstore.com

616 N. Main St. (309) 828-1442

ILLINOIS, Des Plaines

Des Plaines Hobbies

N, HO, S, O, G Std. & Narrow gauge too! Lots of scratchbuilding parts & stuff too. Brass, books & videos. **Digitrax dealer**. We ship anywhere! Close to O'Hare. M, T, W, F 10-6; Th 10-8; Sat 9:30-5; Sun 11-5.

1468 Lee St. (Mannheim Rd) (847) 297-2118

ILLINOIS, Elmhurst

Al's Hobby Shop

Serving Chicagoland for over 63 years. Specialist in HO & N. Extensive supply of decals, details & paints. **Digitrax dealer**. Minutes from O'Hare. We ship anywhere.
trains@alshobbyshop.com

121 N. Addison Ave. (630) 832-4908

ILLINOIS, Geneva

Structures and Trains by Fred

Trains Only! Friendly personal service. Discount Prices. Z, N, HO, O Trains. Large selection of Craftsman kits. Custom built layouts. M-F 10am - 7pm, S & S 10am - 5pm
www.structuresandtrainsbyfred.com

12 N 2nd Street (630) 208-9011

ILLINOIS, Maryville

K-10's Model Trains

Large 60' x 70' customer operated DCC HO layout. **Digitrax dealer**. 17 miles from St. Louis, near I-70/I-55 exit 15B. Shop hrs, maps, pictures, layout construction times, train running see www.k-10smodeltrains.com

19 Schiber Court (618) 288-9720

ILLINOIS, Mundelein

Ron's Mundelein Hobbies, Inc.

An Old Time Friendly Shop. Serving Northeastern Illinois for over 28 years!
Digitrax Dealer. ronhobby@aol.com
Hrs: Tue.-Fri. 10am-6pm, Sat. 9am-4pm, Sun. 11am-3pm. Fax: 847-949-8687

431 N. Lake Street (847) 949-8680

ILLINOIS, Oswego

Denny's Trains & Things

Auth. dealer: Lionel, LGB, MTH, Marx, Williams, Aristocraft. All prewar trains, Standard/ O gauge. Auth. MTH repair center. I'll buy your trains.
dennytrain@aol.com Visa/MC/Disc/AmEx

116 S. Main St. (630) 554-6964

ILLINOIS, Woodstock

Woodstock Hobbies, Ltd.

Trains & Accessories for Z thru G. Authorized Lionel and Märklin dealers. Large Operating Lionel Layout.
Tues. - Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5 Sun. 12-4
Visit us at: www.woodstockhobbies.com

124 Cass St.- Woodstock Sq. (815) 337-8770

INDIANA, Dryer

Park Lane Hobbies

N, HO & O. DCC & **Digitrax dealer**. Atlas, Athearn, BLI & Walthers. Plastics, modeling supplies & detail parts. Special orders. Competitive prices. M-F 10-7, Sat 10-5, Sun 11-3, www.parklanehobbiesonline.com

1080 Joliet (Rte. 30) (219) 322-1123

DEALER DIRECTORY

INDIANA, Elkhart

Rupel Toy Trains

Authorized Lionel Value-added dealer. MTH retailer & service center. Atlas O, Branchline, Intermountain, Kato, Micro-Trains, Woodland Scenics, Walthers, Dept. 56. Everything Discounted. www.rupeltoytrains.com

23631 US Hwy. 33, Ste. D (574) 875-8008

INDIANA, Indianapolis

HobbyTown USA

One of the Largest Train Selections in Indy! Specializing in HO & N scales ***Digitrax dealer****. Special orders welcome M-F 10-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5*

8326 Castleton Corner Dr. (317) 845-4106

INDIANA, Indianapolis

Sanford & Son Train Yard

Specializing In Collectible HO & N Scale Also Railroad Paper, Signs, & more The Biggest Little Train Shop In Indy! Open Seven Days A Week - 11am Til 5pm Soda Fountain Open Thursday through Sunday

3444 N. Shadeland Ave. (317) 748-3337

INDIANA, Indianapolis

Train Central, Corp.

Trains are our only business! HO, N, O27, Brass, books, magazines, detail parts, paints & accessories. 1 block West of Shadeland Ave. on Washington St. Mon-Sat 10:30-6, www.waynestrains.biz

6742 E. Wash. (U.S. 40) (317) 375-0832

INDIANA, Plainfield

Big Four Hobbies

Large selection model trains, detail parts, Accessories, Books, Magazines, ***Digitrax dealer.***

1005 E. Main St. (317) 837-1024

MAINE, Kezar Falls

Maine Trains

One of the largest HO & N stocks in Northern New England. Athearn, Atlas, Shinohara & more!! Mon, Tue, Th, Sat: 10-4, Fri: 10-8 Web: mainetrains.net, Midway between Portland, ME & Rochester, NH.

21 Elm Street (207) 625-4916

MARYLAND, Baltimore (Cockeysville)

M.B. Klein

Model railroad headquarters since 1913 Excellent selection HO & N equipment & accessories; Lionel, K-Line. All at discount prices. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 9-5 www.modeltrainstuff.com

243-A Cockeysville Rd. (410) 229-9995

MARYLAND, Sykesville

The Moose Caboose

Central Maryland's best kept secret - a family friendly model train shop specializing in HO & N Scale at very generous discounts. Please call for hrs. or visit us at www.themoosecaboose.com

1341 W. Liberty Rd. (410) 795-4610

MASSACHUSETTS, Chelmsford

Maine Trains

HO & N Model Railroading Scale kits, parts and supplies How-to-books and magazines Tues-Fri 11am-6:30pm, Sat 10am-5pm www.mainetrains.com

210 Boston Rd. Rt. 4 (978) 250-1442

MASSACHUSETTS, Methuen

NE Craftsman Structure Supply

Model Railroading • Doll Houses • Model Ships • Woodcarving. We carry the books, supplies & tools needed for scale modelers to build with! Visit us at: www.necraftsman.com

99 Cross St. (978) 683-6327

MASSACHUSETTS, Norton

Norton Prototypes

Full line of model trains. Mostly HO. Complete Athearn inventory. Full prototype custom shop! Large inventory of custom engines & freight cars. Largest inventory highball graphics & Micro Scale decals.

160 Taunton Ave Rte 140 (508) 725-6710

MASSACHUSETTS, Sudbury

Ken's Trains

N-Scale exclusively Large selection of quality rolling stock & accessories in our fine store Open Wed., Thu. & Fri. 4-8 Sat. 10-5, Sun. 2-5

Mill Village, Rt. 20 (978) 443-6883

MASSACHUSETTS, Townsend

LightHouse Hobbies

HO & N Full-line hobby shop. Authorized ***Digitrax*** *&* ***Broadway Limited dealer****, plus Accurail, Athearn, Atlas, Kato, MRC, Walthers, Testors, Woodland Scenics and more.... www.lighthousehobbies.com*

18 Main St., Harbor Village Shopping Ctr. (978) 597-2600

MICHIGAN, Bridgeport

Junction Valley RR Hobby Shop

Scales Z to G. All at discount prices. Am. Models, Aristo, Athearn, Atlas, Bachmann, Con-Cor, IHC, USA, Kadee, Kato, K-Line, Lionel, MTH, Walthers, LGB, HLW. www.jvrailroad.com

7065 Dixie Hwy. (989) 777-3480

MICHIGAN, Coloma

J & W Model Trains

Specializing in HO and G scale. DCC Installs for both gauges. Special Orders welcome! 1-800-443-0440 E-mail: jpiehl@jwmodeltrains.com www.jwmodeltrains.com

6450 Becht Rd. East (269) 468-5586

MICHIGAN, Flint

Rider's Hobby Shop

G (LGB, 1:20.3), O (Lionel, MTH), On30, HO, N & Z. Locos, cars, figures, buildings track, kits, scenery supplies, details, books & videos. Digitrax dealer. Repair service. M-F 10-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5

2061 S. Linden (810) 720-2500

Michigan, Mount Pleasant

Mountain Town Hobby's

We carry N through G scale, structures, tools, scenery, scratch building supplies. Special orders welcome. Authorized Lionel & MTH Dealer. Open Mon - Fri 9-6, Sat 10-3, Closed Sun.

307 S. Mission Street (989) 779-7245

MICHIGAN, Saginaw

Brasseur Electric Trains, Inc.

Auth. ***Digitrax dealer****, Lionel & MTH Sales & Service . 1,000's of parts, books, tools, supplies. Major product lines. Fax: 989-793-2509 E-mail bob@traindoctor.com www.brasseurelectrictrains.com*

410 Court Street (989) 793-4753

MICHIGAN, Watervliet

Bob's Hobby & Collector's Shop

Michigan's largest shop with 12,000 sq. ft. New and Used Open Tu-Fri 12-6pm, Sat 9-6, Closed Su & M.

115 N. Main St. (269) 463-7452

MISSOURI, Kansas City

Doc's Caboose, Inc.

Trackside location in KC's historic West Bottoms. HO & N Scale Trains, Tools, Special Orders. ***Digitrax dealer****. Exclusive "weathered" T-shirts. www.docscaboose.com*

1400 Union Ave. (816) 471-7114

MISSOURI, Odessa

J & L Hobby & Trains

Midwest's best selection of HO & N scales. Advance Reservation. ***Digitrax dealer****. Website! http://pws.prserv.net/jltrain We do mail order. Odessa exit at the Outlet Mall, So. side I-70.*

1344 W US Hwy. 40 (816) 633-5400

MISSOURI, St. Louis

Hobby Station

One of St. Louis's largest train stores! All scales, plus repair services & detail parts. Authorized Lionel, LGB, & Märklin service centers. New Summer Hours! Tu.-Sat. 10am - 5pm, Sun. 12am - 4pm

301 S. Kirkwood Rd. (314) 822-1927

MONTANA, Billings

Jim's Junction

Model railroading headquarters for the northern Rockies. HO, HOn3, N gauge. Kits, parts, tools, books. ***Digitrax dealer*** *Tu-Fri 10-5:30, Sat 10-4, Clsed. Sun-Mon trains28@bresnan.net www.jim'sjunction.com*

811 B 16th St. West (406) 259-5354

MONTANA, Bozeman

Mr. Choo Choo's, LLC

Sales • Service • Repair • Trade • Buy • Layout Consulting • All Scales • Special Orders • DCC N-HO-O operating layouts in the store! From beginner to advanced, we can get what you need! Tues-Sat: 9-7

2612 W. Main Ste. A (406) 556-1300

NEBRASKA, Omaha

House of Trains

One of the oldest and most experienced stores around. We carry all Scales! DCC and ***Digitrax dealer*** *www.houseoftrains.com*

8106 Maple St. (402) 934-7245

NEVADA, Las Vegas

HobbyTown USA

While in Las Vegas, check out our train selection. Close to the Las Vegas strip. Hours: Mon-Fri 10-8, Sat 10-7, Sun 12-6.

5085 W. Sahara, Ste. 134 (702) 889-9554

NEVADA, Las Vegas

Westside Trains

Large variety of HO, N & Lionel O gauge trains. Auth. ***Digitrax****, Lionel & Kato* ***dealer****. Only 7 miles west of the Las Vegas strip. www.thetrainengineer.com*

2960 S Durango Ste 117 (702) 254-9475

NEVADA, Reno

High Sierra Hobbies

Model railroading in all scales! Tools, books, DVDs, consignments, DCC systems & support, ***Digitrax dealer****. By Convention Center. 800-891-8799 www.highsierrahobbies.com*

4020 Kietzke Lane (775) 825-5557

NEW HAMPSHIRE, Hampton Falls

Brentwood Antiques

HO - O & accessories Carrying Atlas, Athearn, MTH-RailKing, Lionel & Williams Open 7 days a week 10-5

106 Lafayette Rd. (Rt. 1) (603) 9291441

NEW JERSEY, Englishtown

Euro Model Trains

Finest in European and American model trains. Best price AND service anywhere! info@euromodeltrians.com www.euromodeltrians.com

90 Wilson Ave. (848) 459-5923

NEW JERSEY, Piscataway

The Model Railroad Shop

Serving hobbyists since 1933. Large selection of HO, N, S & O scale. Fire Truck models, RR books-repair service. Mon., Tue. & Thurs. 10am-6pm, Sat. 10am-5pm, Wed. & Fri. 10am-9pm

Vail Ave. & Market Rd. (732) 968-5696

NEW JERSEY, Point Pleasant Beach

The Train Room

A Complete Model Railroad Store Over 200 Engines in Stock N•HO•S•O Operating layouts - DCC/DCS/TMCC Authorized MTH and LIONEL Dealer Walthers • Atlas • Atlas O Tue - Sun 10-6

707 Arnold Ave. (732) 899-4000

NEW MEXICO, Albuquerque

Trains West

100% Trains. Brass imports, craftsman kits, detail parts, decals, tools, airbrushes Large selection of railroad books & mags ***Digitrax dealer****, Closed Sun. - Mon. • Fax (505) 884-8814 •*

3351 Candelaria NE Ste. A (505) 881-2322

NEW YORK, Buffalo

K-Val Hobbies

Trains exclusively N, HO, S, O, Standard. Brass, kits, accessories. NMRA discounts. Trains bought, sold, repaired. M, T, W, Sat 10-5, Th, Fri 10-9. www.kval-hobbies.com

277 Hinman Ave. (716) 875-2837

NEW YORK, Buffalo

Niagara Hobby & Craft Mart

"Biggest in the U.S.A.!" All Brands of G, O, HO and N. Open Every Day- Visit our 39-ton Caboose. 1/ 2 mile from Waldon Galleria Mall. www.niagarahobby.com

3366 Union Rd. (at Walden Ave) (716) 681-1666

NEW YORK, Kingston

J & J's Hobbies

Full service hobby shop. Walthers dealer. Athearn, Atlas, Model Power. HO, N & O gauge. Lionel dealer. Call for hours. janet@jnjhobbies.com www.jnjhobbies.com

37 N. Front St. (845) 338-7174

NEW YORK, Mineola

Willis Hobbies, Inc.

Since 1949. Long Island's largest full-line hobby superstore. 10,000 sq. ft. Featuring LGB, MTH, Lionel, Märklin, HO & Z. HO & N scales. Books detail parts & much more! www.willishobbies.com

300 Willis Avenue (516) 746-3944

NEW YORK, Poughkeepsie

Dutchess Train & Hobby Center

Area's largest model train store O/HO/N gauges, kits, track, boats, planes, scenery, tools, paints. Tu-W-F 10-6; Th 1-8; Sat 10-5; Sun 10-2 www.dutchesstrain.com

43 Vassar Rd. (845) 463-3417

NEW YORK, Rochester (Webster)

Empire Northern Models

Western NY's largest DCC Dealer + Installs! Full line of HO & N. Locos & Rolling Stock. Athearn, Atlas, NCE, Digitrax, Stewart. Call for hours. www.empirenorthernmodels.com

680 Ridge Rd. (585) 670-0679

NEW YORK, Schenectady

Mohawk Valley Railroad Co

2,000 sq. ft. of trains. Operating layout G, O, HO, S, N scales. Books, videos, tools, paints, magazines, model kits, old Lionel,

2037 Hamburg Street (518) 372-9124

New York, Syracuse (Elbridge)

Borodino Scale Line

Scratch Building, Scenery & Details Our Distributors & 25 Direct buy Manufacturers make us stand out. Product not found in every train shop! www.borodinoscaleline.com

1040 Rte. 5E. (315) 439-6956

NORTH CAROLINA, Ashville

Factory Direct Trains

Ashville's Finest Model Railroading Store N, HO & O Scale Trains, accessories and More! www.factorydirecttrains.com

2004 Riverside Drive, Unit V (800) 990-3381

NORTH CAROLINA, Spencer

Little Choo Choo Shop, Inc.

Across from NC Transportation Museum. Large selection of trains in all scales, ***Digitrax dealer****, RR videos/books & children's toys Tu-Sat: 10-5:30. www.littlechoochooshop.com Or info@littlechoochooshop.com*

500 S Salisbury Ave (704) 637-8717

NORTH CAROLINA, Wake Forest

Train BuddyTM Products

"Sharing the joy of model RRing." Auth ***Digitrax****, Soundtraxx & Bowser* ***dealer*** *150,000 + products. Install DCC & sound Service all brands Discount prices at www.trainbuddy.com*

1200 Jenkins Rd. (919) 562-4378

OHIO, Cleveland (Lakewood)

Wings Hobby Shop

Large selection of prototype railroad books, railroad magazines, general hobbies. HO, N, LGB trains and accessories

17112 Detroit Ave. (216) 221-5383

OKLAHOMA, Oklahoma City

Whistle Stop Trains, Inc.

All Model RR - Discount Prices! ***Digitrax****, Soundtraxx, TCS & MRC* ***Dealer****. Decoder installations Open Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 9-5. Website: WhistleStopTrains.com*

1313 W Britton Rd. (405) 842-4846

Making a purchase?

Visit your local hobby store!

Tell them **MRN** *sent you!*

OREGON, Portland

Whistle Stop Trains

Your complete model railroad store. Gauges Z through G. ***Digitrax dealer****, Brass and scratch building supplies. Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, Closed Sunday www.wsor.com*

11724 SE Division St. (503) 761-1822

PENNSYLVANIA, Lansdale

Lin's Junction

Exclusively trains. N - HO - O - G Specializing in DCC, ***Digitrax dealer*** *www.linsjunction.com linsjunction@comcast.net*

128 S. Line St. (215) 412-7711

PENNSYLVANIA, Pa. Furnace

Ye Olde Huff N' Puff Hobby Shop

Atlas, Accurail, Bachmann, Badger, Bowser, Evergreen, Floquil, Kadee,Walthers, Woodland Scenics, Xacto, On30. Ye Olde Huff n Puff Craftsman kits. Open since 1970!

1956 Shirley Lane (814) 692-8334

PENNSYLVANIA, Pittsburgh (Mt. Lebanon)

A. B. Charles & Son Hobby Shop

HO, N, Lionel, LGB, brass locos, supplies, kits, repairs. A full service hobby shop. www.ab-charles.com Open daily 10-6. Monday, Wed, Fri eves. 7:30 - 9.

1635 McFarland Rd. (412) 561-3068

PENNSYLVANIA, Strasburg

Strasburg Train Shop

From trains to diecast to scenery... We have everything for the layout builder! N, HO, O, Lionel ~ We buy & sell used trains Open 7 days a week, year 'round www.etrainshop.com

Route 741 East (717) 687-0464

DEALER DIRECTORY

SOUTH CAROLINA, Greenville
Blue Ridge Hobbies
Model Trains - ALL AT DISCOUNT PRICES
110,000 Products In All Scales Available
Online 24/7 www.BlueRidgeHobbies.com
Retail Store Open Mon - Sat
Featuring HO, N, O Products & Layouts
2400 N. Pleasantburg Dr. (800) 988-2125

TENNESSEE, Knoxville (West)
Hobbytown USA
Knoxville's most diverse hobby store, carrying a large selection of model railroad supplies. Z thru O gauge. ***Digitrax Dealer***. Located just off I-40 in West Knoxville. Open 7 days a week.
11364 Parkside Dr. (865) 675-1975

TENNESSEE, Murfreesboro
Hobbytown USA
Rutherford County's largest selection of hobby items. Carrying a wide variety of model railroad supplies, O, HO & N. Located just off I-24 on Medical Center Pkwy. (exit 76). Hrs: M-F 10-7; Sat. 10-5.
536 J N. Thompson Ln. (615) 890-6777

TEXAS, Dallas (Addison)
Discount Model Trains
Great discounts on thousands of G to Z scale items in stock and special orders
Easy DCC, NCE & ***Digitrax dealer***
Monday - Saturday 10-6
4641 Ratliff Lane (972) 931-8135

TEXAS, Haltom City (Fort Worth)
Angelohobbies
Stocking standard & narrow gauge N thru O Craftsman modeling kits & scratch supplies
Complete DCC products & installation
Hrs: Mon-Fri 11:30-6, Sat 10-6 Sun 1-5
www.angelohobbies.com
5515 Bonner Drive (817) 428-0190

TEXAS, Houston
Larry's Hobbies
Complete line of HO & N model railroad supplies. Magazines, books, video ref. center & scratch building supplies. ***Digitrax dealer***. larryshobbies-houston.com.
Mon - Thur 10-6, Fri-Sat 10-7 & Sun 12-5.
156-F FM 1960 East (281) 443-7373

VERMONT, Burlington
Al's Train Shop
Scale model railroad equipment & supplies
Hours by Appointment
Tue-Fri 10 - 6, Sat 10 - 5
56 Home Ave. (802) 658-4935

WASHINGTON, Camas
NWS Specialties Shop
Working to be Your Model RR Source!
HO & N Scale Trains, tools & accessories.
Hours: Tues-Fri 11am - 7pm.
Sat 11am - 5:00pm.
335 NE Lechner Street (360) 835-7607

WASHINGTON, Tacoma
Pacific Railway Hobbies
South Puget Sound's most complete RR store. G, O, HO, N, Z, LGB, Lionel, Märklin, DCC, Auth. ***Digitrax Dealer***, parts, tools, scratch stuff, books. Daily 11-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. (Oct. - May) 1-5.
9525 Gravelly Lake Dr SW (253) 581-4453

WASHINGTON, Tacoma
Tacoma Trains
Z, N, HO, O, G scales: Lionel, Athearn, Atlas, Bachmann, Walthers, Kato Thomas, supplies, tools, books, videos.
Mon-Sat 10am - 6pm, Sun (Oct-March) 11-4
www.tacoma-trains.com
3813 North 26th Street (253) 756-7517

WISCONSIN, Eau Claire
Model Train Classics, Plus
Western WI's most enjoyable Train Shop
Lionel, K-Line, MTH & other O. Hornby Märklin, American HO, N & G. Operating Layouts. Repairs, kits & accessories, Fun!
www.modeltrainclassics.com
306 S. Barstow St. (715) 838-8858

WISCONSIN, Elroy
The Train Shop
Largest selection in 150 miles. Layouts in O, G, S, HO & N scale trains. Plus Thomas wooden toys. M-F 9-5:30 Sat. 9-3 Sun. Closed. Web: www.aplustrains.com
E-mail: trains@aplustrains.com
130 Main Street (608) 462-8720

WISCONSIN, Monroe
The Hobby Depot
Auth. Lionel, MTH & K-Line Dealer. Atlas O, N, HO, Z trains & accessories. Plastic kits
Books, videos & tools
Summer hours: Tues - Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5;
Winter hours add Sun 12-4
835 17th St. (608) 325-5107

ADVERTISING!!
Model Railroad News
Connect with your customers.
Find serious model railroaders here.
Suggested by fellow dealers.
Call: 1-800-282-3291 Today!

CANADA — AB, Calgary
Trains and Such
100% Trains; All Scales
We buy collections
Collectibles, Memorabilia, ***Digitrax dealer***
M-W 10-8pm; Th-Fri 10-9pm; Sat 9:30-5pm
www.trainsandsuch.com
2604 4th St. NW (403) 277-7226

CANADA — AB, Red Deer
Canadian Scale Rail/Fun Times Hobby
www.canadianscalerail.com
Model Trains in HO, N, G
Canadian & US Road names
#8-88 Howorth St. (403) 986-3866

CANADA — BC, Port Moody (Vancouver)
On Track Hobbies
O, thru Z Scale Model trains & accessories
All Major Suppliers, ***Digitrax dealer***,
Canadian prototypes, Special & Mail Orders, Buy, Sell, Trade, Open 7 days
web: ontrackhobbies.com, 1-877-461-7670
#16 3130 St. Johns St. (604) 461-7670

CANADA — BC, Vancouver
Central Hobbies
Large selection of model RR supplies
Miniatures by Eric, Athearn, Atlas, MDC, ***Digitrax dealer***, NWSL, Peco, Shinohara, Brass. www:central-hobbies.com Special orders! Open 11-6, Fri til 9, Closed Sun
2845 Grandview Hwy. (604) 431-0771

CANADA — ON, Ottawa (Vanier)
Hobby House, Ltd.
One of Canada's leading model shops.
Complete selection of HO & N gauge.
Friendly knowledgeable staff.
Free Parking. On parle Francais.
80 Montreal Road (613) 749-5245

CANADA — ON, Port Hope
The Doll House & Train Emporium
Ideally located between CP & CN rail lines
Watch trains from our window. Specializing in model railroading supplies. Check our web: www.thetrainemporium.com for Hours Directions/Product lines 1-866-885-2270
100 Peter St. (905) 885-0070

CANADA — ON, Streetsville
Credit Valley Railway Co. LTD.
(Mississauga) All rail, all scales.
Premier selection & service, ***Digitrax dealer***. New & used, mail order world wide.
Custom painting, special orders too!
Railfan Headquarters! www.cvrco.com
184 Queen Street South (905) 826-1306

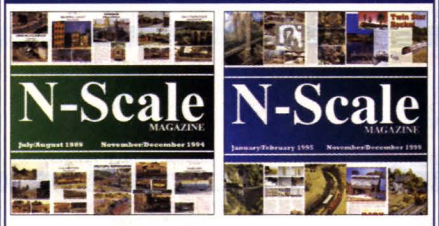
CANADA — ON, Toronto (Markham)
George's Trains, Ltd.
Canadian Train Specialists since 1962
Lionel Auth. Distributor & Repair Center
All Scales • ***Digitrax Dealer*** • Special Orders
Closed Mondays. 1-877-8TRAINS
www.georgestrains.com
550 Alden Rd Unit 101 (905) 470-6200

CANADA — QC, Montreal
Hobbie Universel
Canada's largest full service hobby & train supply. We carry N-HO-O-G scales. See our HO & Garden layouts. 80,000 items in 60,000 sq. ft. E-mail: universel@udisco.com
www.udisco.com
4662 Décarie Blvd. (514) 481-2237

YOU CAN PLACE YOUR STORE'S AD HERE
Advertise Your Hobby Shop Here!
Reach out to local and regional customers that your regular local advertising misses.
MRN Dealer Directory • PO Box 1080
Merlin, OR 97532-1080
Fax 541-955-0346
e-mail: Directory@ModelRailroadNews.com
IT'S INEXPENSIVE, TOO! — ONLY $10 / MONTH!!!

Please Tell Our Dealers That You Saw Their Dealer Directory Ad in Model Railroad News!

N-Scale Magazine Now Available on CD!



Looking for a simpler way to track down that early *N-Scale* Article? Each CD offers an index by issue for your ease of reference • PDF format • Subsequent five year increments to follow. Order now for your very own archive of *N-Scale Magazine!*

$25.00 per disc or $40.00 set
$2.50 US S&H / $5.00 Can. & For. S&H
Volume 1: Jul/Aug 1989 - Nov/Dec 1994
Volume 2: Jan/Feb 1995 - Nov/Dec 1999

www.nscalemagazine.com

PLATINUM RAIL PUBLICATIONS
5811 75th Avenue NE
Marysville, WA 98270
(360) 658-2485

The best model railroads begin in the library.

The room is ready, youve got lumber for the bench work, so it's time to get started on your dream layout...or is it? You can't find a route map for your prototype, so you can't finish the track plan. And where do you get pictures of motive power and rolling stock for the obscure shortline you model? The *National Model Railroad Association's* Kalmbach Memorial Library is ready to help. It's the only library in the world dedicated exclusively to the research needs of scale model railroaders. And as an *NMRA* member it's as close as your phone, fax, mailbox or computer. Become a part of the organization that's been making model railroading better for over 65 years. Join the *NMRA*.

NMRA We'll Train You.

4121 Cromwell Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421 (423) 892-2846,
or join on the internet at www.nmra.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

Place your FREE Non-Commercial Classified Ad in front of thousands of active purchasers! (See Classified ad form on this page for details.)

Paid Commercial Ads are gladly accepted too!

Ads will appear in print, and on our web site during the month of the cover dated edition.

Please submit your ad at least 6 weeks prior to the cover date that you wish it to appear.

Ad Deadline: Classified ads for the January 2010 issue must be received by November 13th, 2009.

Classified ads can be viewed online at **www.ModelRailroadNews.com**

HO HOTWHEELS CARS? Yes! Sport concept–Ford, Porsche, etc $3.00. Norscot Excavator $18.95. Moore Husarik, 12710 54th Ave W, Mukilteo, WA 98275. Free list (425) 493-2588.

O — Weaver Milwaukee Road Little Joe Electric G1715 3-rail w Railsounds & TMCC – $700. Lionel GGI Electric 6-18371 Tuscan 5-stripe Railsounds & TMCC – $700. Both new, never run + shipping. (530) 235-4186.

CUSTOM BOAT/SHIP MODELS All scales/types. Free catalog. S. White, 4223 Chestnut Dr., Center Valley, PA 18034

4 SALE: HO/OO British — HO European trains & diecast vehicles of various scales. LSSAE for each list (all updated): Branch Lines Ltd., 1200 N Branch Rd., Wilmette, IL 60091-1035.

ATLAS O Spokane, Portland & Seattle SP&S F3 Phase I powered A units #800, 801 $800 + shipping. Un-powered A Unit #801 $165 + shipping. 3-rail, new, never run. (530) 235-4186.

MAGAZINES FOR SALE: Mainline Modeler, MR, RMC, North Western Lines, NY Central Headlight, others. E-mail: dchenry@gac.edu for list or SSAE to 715 S. 7th St., St. Peter, MN 56082

FOR SALE: Faller JUPITER FERRIS WHEEL Kit HO140470 + Jupiter Lighting Set HO140471. New. Factory sealed. $400.00 + shipping. (530) 235-4186.

2010 New England Railroading Calendar – 31st edition features 12 (8x10) full color prints + 2 cover pages @$8 postage paid or frameable calendar pictures (our choice) 12/$3.00. Domestic orders only. Mystic Valley Railway Society, PO Box 365486, Hyde Park, MA 02136-0009. Allow 2-4 weeks delivery. www.mysticvalleyrs.org

REGAL RAILWAYS specialize in HO & N scale Model Train Tracks @www.regalrailways.com

WANTED: Motor No. 41205120 for Minitrix 2-10-0 N-Scale. New or used. Pay top dollar. Please leave message. (412) 408-3515.

RAILROAD PAINTINGS: Steam, diesel, and electric scenes. Great for any train room. Originals and prints. Direct from the artist. www.trainsshipsplanes.com

ALL TRAIN COLLECTORS! We need more trains to supply our large customer base. Modern era specialists — Lionel, MTH, K-Line, Williams, Weaver, 3rd Rail, etc. We buy collections, store inventories, and parts of all sizes and eras. Send us your list or call us today. We travel extensively all over the US and Canada. Trainz, 2740 Faith Industrial Dr., Suite 200, Buford, GA 30518; (866) 285-5840; fax (770) 271-1295; Scott@trainz.com

CUSTOM BOAT/SHIP MODELS! All scales/types. Free catalog. S. White, 4223 Chestnut Dr., Center Valley, PA 18034.

A FATHER & SON TEAM – Looking for large High-Quality Brass & Plastic Collections. We buy your Entire Collection, not just the cream. Over $500,000 Available. Please call Dan Toll Free at 1-877-227-5557 or mail a list to: Dan Glasure, PO Box 830175, Ocala, FL 34483-0175 or E-Mail: dan@DansTrainDepot.com

TRAINS new and used. Parts and repairs. Model railroad magazines all gauges. Also videos & DVDs. (206) 330-3628 ask for Brad.

WANTED: ORIGINAL HOWARD FOGG train paintings. John Atherton (845) 471- 8152; E-mail: JJAAMAPOU@aol.com

HO locos + rolling stock, Walthers pass car kits, mags. Fred Cesefske, 4049 Pine Grove Ave., Ft. Gratiot, MI 48059.

4 SALE: THREE MIKE PEARSALL WATERCOLORS all Pennsy. Call Vern, (717) 464-3481 or review at www.vsrailart.com

WANTED: Norwest Promodel Tank Car Kit. Prefer un-built. Call Bob, (305) 970-1152.

NCE POWER CAB: Mint condition, 28 functions; complete system — $150 OBO. E-mail me at: andrewhartley2000@yahoo.com

K-LINE 027: K2554-2102 NS MP-15 diesel eng. Dummy, non-powered. Like-New-IB $75 OBO. Pics. mkblk@verizon.net

LEGAL HO SCALE FOLK: Mint in the box, less than half retail price. Call Ian (702) 871-0620 – evenings, W. Coast.

MARKLIN: RET800, 348/1, 348/2, 348/4 – $700; (856) 429-0930; LGB track and rolling stock.

HO 4 SALE: Out of production freight cars + building kits. Low prices SASE: Stephanus, P.O. Box 985, Cortaro, AZ 85652.

WANTED: ATHEARN Kit #8171 2004 list $13.98. Call (509) 765-9674. Leave message including price, phone number.

CLEARING OUT On30! Mostly new. SASE for list to: Jess Johnson, 21059 Kimberly Ct., Lake Elsinore, CA 92532.

FOR SALE: 1:87 Model Power vehicles. MSRP: $4.98 each; my price: $2.50. E-mail: texas-pacific@sbcglobal.net

FREE* CLASSIFIED ADS!

NOTE:** Free Classified Ads are for NON-COMMERCIAL ADS ONLY, First Four Lines Only, Additional Lines are $1.50 Per Line, One Free Ad Per Issue, No Mail Order Ads. **Commercial Ads are $1.50 Per Line with a Four Line Minimum (Minimum $6.00)

Classified Ad Order Form

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ – _____

Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____

All ads must be prepaid. Use the boxes below to write your ad, placing one character (including spaces) in each box. Approximately 27 characters will fit on a line. The first two or three words will be typeset in ***BOLD CAPS*** at no additional charge if desired. ***Please include contact information in your ad copy below (phone number, address, Email address, etc.)***

☐ ***Check here for BOLD CAPS.*** Publisher reserves the right to edit and/or abbreviate copy to fit available space.

1 2 3 4 — *EXTRA LINES @ $1.50/LINE* — 1 2 3 4

Sample Ad: AMERICAN FLYER LOCO, Classic 1950s era 4-6-2. Excellent condition. $125 obo. 503-555-1212 after 5pm Pacific.

NOTE: If you need a larger ad, please TYPE the copy for the ad and estimate the number of lines you will use. To calculate the number of lines, simply count the total number of characters+numbers+spaces and divide by 27.

Number of lines _____ x $1.50 = $ _____

Please Make Your Check Payable To: Model Railroad News — or Use Your Credit Card...

Send To: Model Railroad News
P.O.Box 1080
Merlin, OR 97532-1080

☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS ☐ MasterCard ☐ DISCOVER ☐ VISA

Name (as it appears on card): _____ Phone: (____)

Credit Card Number: _____ – _____ – _____ – _____ Exp Date: _____

Signature (required): _____

Events for the January 2010 issue must be received by November 13th, 2009

Attn. Clubs & Show Sponsors — Place your FREE event announcement in front of thousands of readers! Let them know about your special event! Send your announcement to us at least three months prior to the event for maximum coverage. Write to: Events, c/o Model Railroad News, P.O. Box 1080, Merlin, OR 97532-1080. You can fax us your event at: (541) 955-0346; or e-mail: events@modelrailroadnews.com

Free trial subscription cards of Model Railroad News are available upon request for show and meet attendees. Call, fax, or e-mail for details.

Events & Activities can be viewed online at www.ModelRailroadNews.com

Arizona, Phoenix — The "In the Heat" Railroad Swap Meet will be held on November 7th, at the North Phoenix Baptist Church Fellowship Center, 5757 N. Central Avenue. Hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Attractions to include all gauges, books, tapes, memorabilia, and accessories. Refreshments will be available on premises. Admission: $5.00, adults. For more information, contact: David Jerry, (602) 361-0356.

Arizona, Tucson — The Arizona Division/PSR/NMRA Fall Division Meet will be held on November 14th, at the Tucson Junior League, 2099 E. River Road. Hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission: $7.00; $3.00, members under 21; free if joining NMRA/PSR at registration. For more information, contact: Art Carlton, 1898 S. Private Dr., Casa Grande, AZ, 85294; (520) 723-9212; or www.azdiv-nmra.org

California, Indio — The Coachella Valley Model Railroaders will be holding an Open House of their display on November 14th, at the Riverside County Fair National Date Festival Fairgrounds, 82-503 Highway 111. Enter at gate 1 in front of the fairgrounds and follow the signs. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attractions will include their fully scenic HO Scale layout with over 2,500 feet of track, and over 500 feet HOn3 layout operating with DCC. Admission is free. For more information, contact: Jim Hundley, (760) 347-6218; e-mail: jim@cvmrr.com; or visit: www.cvmrr.com

California, Los Angeles — The Pasadena Model Railroad Club will be holding its Fall Open House on November 7-8th, 10th, and 14-15th, at 5458 Alhambra Avenue. Hours will be from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Saturdays; from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays; and from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday. Attractions to include the Club's HO Scale model railroad of the Sierra Pacific Lines, with more than twenty people needed to operate the railroad including a trainmaster, two dispatchers and ten cab operators. Admission: $3.00, adults; $1.00, children; under 7 admitted free, when accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact: The Pasadena Model Railroad Club, 5458 Alhambra Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90032; (323) 222-1718; www.pmRRc.org

California, Roseville — The 33rd Annual International Railfair Model Railroad Show will be held November 14-15th, at Placer County Fairgrounds, located at Washington Boulevard and All American City Boulevard. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Attractions to include operating layouts, rides on outdoor live steam, and the California State Railroad Museum handcar. Admission: $7.00, adults; children under 12 admitted free; $10.00, Sunday Family Special. Parking is free. For more information, visit: www.internationalrailfair.com

California, San Gabriel — The Highland Park Society of Model Railroad Engineers will be holding an Open House on November 4, 7-8th, at 854 E. Broadway. Hours will be from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on the 4th, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. on the 7-8th. Attractions to include HO, HOn3, and traction. For more information, contact: The Highland Park Society of Model Railroad Engineers, 854 E. Broadway, San Gabriel, CA 91776; (626) 285-1031; http://highlandpacificrr.com

Colorado, Denver — The Platte Valley & Western Model Railroad Club will be holding a Special Holiday Open House on November 27th, at the Platte Valley & Western Model Railroad Club, located in the basement of Denver's Union Station located at 17th Street and Wynkoop. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open House will be held same time as the Downtown Denver Grand Illumination events centered at the station. Attractions to include the inaugural run of a new Platte Valley & Western passenger train featuring Pullman heavyweight passenger cars from the 1950s. Additionally, the PV&W's narrow gauge railroad, the Clear Creek & San Juan, is expected to be running for the first time at this special event. Admission is free; donations gladly accepted. For more information, contact: the PV&W, (303) 325-5143; e-mail: Chris.Rand@pvwrr.org; www.PVWRR.org

Colorado, Lakewood — The Foothills Society of Model Railroaders' Model Railroad and Toy Train Swap Meet will be held on November 21st, at Christ on the Mountain Church, 13922 W. Utah Avenue. Meet hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Admission: $3.00, adults; $1.50, over 64 or under 12. For more information, call George, (303) 989-0087; or Eric, (303) 985-1491.

Connecticut, Derby — The Boy Scouts of Troop 3 will be having a Train Show and Toy Drive on November 28th, at the 2nd Congregational Church, 136 Elizabeth Street. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attractions to include operating layouts and model railroad clinics, consisting of scenery, building structures, building vehicles, and more. The show is set up to help 99.1 WPLR with their Big Toy Drive this holiday season. The troop's goal is to fill their 20-foot troop trailer with toys from the show, which then will be given to the radio station. Admission: a new unwrapped toy; under 3 admitted free; or $5.00 without a toy. For more information, contact: Barry Howard, Assistant Scoutmaster Troop 3 Derby, (203) 723-5346; e-mail: BJHRR@aol.com; or visit: www.howardshobby.com and click on "toy drive."

Connecticut, Stamford — The Stamford Model RR Club O Scalers will be having an Open House on November 7th, at Saint John's Episcopal Church, 628 Main Street. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Attractions to include their layout in operation, and a white elephant table. Bring your favorite models and projects to show. Admission, coffee and donuts are free. For more information, call Jim Mardiguian, (718) 347-3159; e-mail: dlwh2466@hotmail.com; or visit: www.stamfordmodelrrclub.com

Connecticut, Willimantic — The Connecticut Easter Railroad Museum will be sponsoring a Model Train and Die Cast Show on November 15th, at Windham High School, 355 High Street. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attractions to include operating layouts, and refreshments will be available on sight, which is handicapped accessible, with wide aisles. Admission: $6.00, adults; $1.00, children 8-12; children under 8 admitted free. Parking is free. For more information, call: Joseph Sokol, (860) 872-2240; or e-mail: joseph_sokol@msn.com

Florida, Fort Meyers — The Scale Rails Holiday Train Show will be held November 28-29th, at the Araba Temple, 2010 Hanson Street. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days. Admission: $6.00, adults; $2.00, teens; children under 12 admitted free. For more information, contact: Jim Edmier, 17807 Dracena Circle, North Fort Myers, FL 33917; (239) 731-0520.

Florida, New Smyrna/Edgewater — Regal Railways will be having a Train Show on November 7th, at 820 W. Park Avenue. Show hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attractions to include vendors, and a small train layout. Admission: $4.00, adults; children under 13 admitted free. For more information, call Joe at (727) 244-1341; or visit: www.regalrailways.com

Florida, Tampa — Regal Railways will be having a Train Show on November 21st, at 3616 W. Gandy Blvd. Show hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attractions to include vendors, and a small train layout. Admission: $4.00, adults; children under 13 admitted free. For more information, call Joe at (727) 244-1341; or visit: www.regalrailways.com

Georgia, Warner Robins — The Middle Georgia Model Railroad Club will be part of the 'Planes and Trains Exhibit' November 21-25 and 27-29, at the Museum of Aviation at Robins Air Force Base, located at Highway 247 and Russell Parkway. Hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Attractions to include multiple layouts and static train displays among 120 military aircraft. Admission is free. For more information, call: Jack Copeland, (478) 328-8028; or visit: www.museumofaviation.org/planestrains.php

Illinois, Oak Park — The Oak Park Society of Model Engineers will be holding Open House on November 7th, at their clubroom, located on the lower level of the Dole Learning Center, 255 Augusta Street. Hours will be from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Attractions to include operating trains on the club's in-progress multi-level layout, which models a railroad from Chicago west to Iowa. For more information, contact: Henry Kranz, (708) 848-5716; e-mail: hjkranz@sbcglobal.net

Indiana, Michigan City — The Duneland Model Railroad Club will be sponsoring a Model Railroad Show & Swap on November 29th, at the NECA/IBEW Community Center, 301 East 8th Street. Hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission: $3.00, 14 and over; $1.00, 6-13; 5 and under admitted free. For more info, call Don Nagdeman, (219) 879-1196; or e-mail: email-dmrcman@sbcglobal.net

Kansas, Benton — The Mid-Continent Prototype Modelers Meet will be held November 7-8th, at Benton Lions Community Center, 150 S. Main Street. Hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Attractions to include clinics, displays, Free-Mo, a raffle, and more. Admission: $5.00 to pre-register; $7.00 at the door with a model, and $10.00 without a model. For more information, contact: Perry Lambert, (316) 616-4672; e-mail: mcpmmeet@hotmail.com; www.midcontinentprototypemodelers.org

Maine, Auburn — A Train Show will be held on November 7th, at Auburn Middle School, 610 Court Street. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attractions to include layouts in N-, HO-, On30-, and G-scales. Dealer tables, train movies, and refreshments will be provided by Auburn Music Boosters. For more information, call Terrence King at (207) 933-2477.

Maine, Brewer — The Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club will be having a show on November 21st, at Jeff's Catering 15 Littlefield Way. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Attractions to include operating layouts, dealers, and a silent auction. Admission: $4.00, adults; children under 12 admitted free. For more information, contact: Geoff Anthony, PO Box 187, Blue Hill, ME 04614; (207) 374-2786; e-mail: dahak@roadrunner.com

Maryland, Sharpsburg — The Hagerstown Model Railroad Museum will be hosting a Model Train Sale on November 28th, at the Washington County Ag. Center, 7313 Sharpsburg Pike. Hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission: $4.00, adults; children under 12 admitted free. For more information, call: (301) 824-2239; e-mail: Hmrrm@myactv.net; or visit: www.hmmrm.org

Massachusetts, Wilmington — Greenberg's Train & Toy Show will be held November 21-22, at the Shriners Auditorium, 99 Fordham Road. Show hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days. Show will feature a huge marketplace of train, toy, and hobby dealers, operating model railroads, and instructional presentations. Admission: $7.00, adults good for both days; children under 12 admitted free. For more information, contact: Greenberg Shows, P.O. Box 34, Elmhurst, IL 60126; (630) 279-4087; e-mail: Staff@Greenbergshows.com; www.greenbergshows.com

Michigan, Ann Arbor (Saline) — Rails on Wheels will be presenting its 11th Annual Southeast Michigan Model Railroad Flea Market & Show on November 29th, at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission: $3.00, adults; children under 12 admitted free with a paying adult. For more information, contact: Jeff Fryman, c/o Rails on Wheels, 525 E. Michigan Ave. Suite 151, Saline, MI 48176; (734) 944-9872; e-mail: railsonwheels@yahoo.com; or visit: www.railsonwheels.com

Michigan, Jackson — The 10th Michigan Railroad History Conference will be held on November 7th, at the Cascade Manor House, 1970 Kibby Road. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. The program will be from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Attractions to include a tour of the former Michigan Central Shops (now Miller Trucking Co.) from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., and an Afterglow at the former Lake Shore & Michigan Southern freight house (now Wendy's) with an informal panel discussion about Michigan railroad history. You may order off the Wendy's menu at your own expense. Registration (includes luncheon): $45.00, by October 1st; $50.00, postmarked later than October 1st. For more information, contact: MRHC, P.O. Box 852, Royal Oak, MI 48068; Greg Degowski, (248) 547-4783; e-mail: gjdegowski@yahoo.com (preferred); www.michiganrailroadhistory.org or Michigan Railroad Calendar on www.michiganrailroads.com

Mississippi, Meridian — The Southeastern Region Magnolia Division NMRA's organization meeting will be held on November 7th, at Meridian Union Station, 2nd Floor, 1901 Front Street. Hours will be from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Meeting will coincide with the annual Meridian Rail Fest. Rail Fest hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free to both events. For more information, contact: Troy Hight, (601) 389-5370; e-mail: TrHg6@aol.com

Missouri, Joplin — The Joplin Museum Complex will be hosting a Model Railroad Show and Swap Meet on November 28th, at 7th and Schifferdecker Streets in Schifferdecker Park between the golf course and swimming pool. Hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attractions to include several operating train layouts, over 60 tables of items for sale or trade from scale model trains, collectible antique electric trains, and train collectibles. Admission: $3.00, adults; 12 and under admitted free. All proceeds at the door go to benefit the Joplin Museum Complex. For more information, contact: Rick Gardner, (417) 673-4888; e-mail: rickgardner@sofnet.com; or visit: www.tristatemodelrailroaders.com

New Hampshire Bedford — The Bedford Boomers' 27th Annual Exhibition will be held on November 8th, at McKelvie Middle School, located on Liberty Hill Road. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Attractions to include the Amherst Belt Lines, New Hampshire Garden Railway Society, Pepperell Siding Club, Bristol S Gaugers, N TRAK, European Railroad Enthusiasts, Live Steamers, and the Bedford Boomers in the display of operating modules in all scales. This event will display a wide range of DCC options, scales, eras, scenery, and clinics. Admission is free; but any donations will be appreciated. For more information, contact: Norm Jones, 38 Spring Valley Road, Methuen, MA 01844; (978) 687-0780; www.boomers-rr.com

New Jersey, Edison — Greenberg's Train & Toy Show will be held November 28-29, at the New Jersey Convention & Expo Center, 97 Sunfield Avenue. Show hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days. Show will feature a huge marketplace of train, toy, and hobby dealers, operating model railroads, and instructional presentations. Admission: $7.00, adults good for both days; children under 12 admitted free. For more information, contact: Greenberg Shows, P.O. Box 34, Elmhurst, IL 60126; (630) 279-4087; e-mail: Staff@Greenbergshows.com; www.greenbergshows.com

New Jersey, North Haledon — The Model Engineers Railroad Club of North Jersey's 75 Anniversary - Annual Open House will be held November 27-29, December 4-6, and 11-13, at 569 High Mountain Road. Hours will be from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Fridays, and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Admission: $5.00, adults; children admitted free with adult. For more information, call Paul Harbord, (973) 427-4905 before 9:00 p.m.

New Jersey, North Haledon — The Garden State Model Railway Club's 52nd Annual Open House will be held November 27-29th, December 4-6th, and December 11-13th, at 575 High Mountain Road. Open House hours will be from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Fridays, and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Attractions will include prototypical and special steam and diesel powered trains, including our Santa Claus Express, running on the Club's HO layout, a real working railroad signal, and other displays. Children will have the opportunity to operate a scale locomotive and refreshments will be available. Admission: $5.00, adults; children under 12 admitted free. For more information, please contact: Rob Savino, (201) 387-8716; e-mail: Info@GSMRRClub.org; www.gsmrrclub.org

New York, Elbridge — The Central NY Model RR Club & Historical Society, Inc.'s Fall Open House will be held November 21st & 22nd, at the Society, located on the Finger Lakes Railway at 4986 Jordan Road, in the former NYC Depot at Skaneatles Junction. Hours will be from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Attractions to include the depot's 21' x 57' DCC HO layout, and railroad artifacts. Admission is free. For more information, call Paul Shinal, (315) 568-2451.

New York, Kingston — The Kingston Model Railroad Club's Annual Open House will be held on November 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29, and on December 5-6, at Kingston Model Railroad Club, located on Susan Street. Hours will be from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission: $6.00, adults; $1.00, children under 12. For more information, call the Kingston Model Railroad Club, (845) 334-8233; or e-mail: catman5308@yahoo.com

New York, Poughkeepsie — The Hudson Valley Railroad Society will be holding its 38th Annual Railroad Exposition on November 8th, at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attractions to include operating layouts, railroadiana, model exhibits, modular layouts, railroad clinics, dealer tables, modeling demonstrations, movies, and a white elephant table. Refreshments will be available on premises. Admission: $5.00, adults; $4.00, senior/student; $2.00, children under 12. For more information, contact: Denny Evaul, (845) 297-0901; www.hydeparkstation.com

New York, Syracuse — The 35th Annual Great New York State Model Train Fair will be held November 7-8, at the State Fairgrounds. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days. This is one of the largest shows in the Northeast, with attractions including 158,000 square feet of exhibit space in two of the largest buildings at the NYS Fairgrounds, with 100+ vendors and 30+ operating layouts. Admission: $8.00, adults; $6.00, seniors & children (3-13); $12.00, 2-day pass. Sponsored by CNY Chapter, National Railway Historical Society. For more information, call: (315) 488-8208; or visit: www.modeltrainfair.com

Ohio, Dalton — CJ Trains' Fall Greater Wayne County Train and Toy Show will be held on November 8th, at the Buckeye Event Center, 624 Henry Street. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission: $5.00, adults; children 12 and under admitted free. For more information, contact: Jon Ulbright, 941 Buchholz Dr., Wooster, OH 44691; (330) 262-7488 after 6:00 p.m.; e-mail: cathijon@sssnet.com; www.cjtrains.com

Ohio, Zanesville — The Zanesville Model Railroad Club will be having Open House on November 14-15th, at the corner of Fourth and Market Streets. Hours will be from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, contact: Ed Block, (740) 452-5791.

Oklahoma, Oklahoma City — The Oklahoma Railway Museum, COMRail, OK NRail, and the South Canadian Model RR Club will be sponsoring the Oklahoma City Train Show on December 5-6th, at the Oklahoma State Fair Grounds Travel and Transportation Building. Hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 on Saturday, and from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Attractions to include a Great Train Set giveaway, and the Great Plains Annual N Scale Convention. Admission: $7.00, adults; children 12 and under admitted free. For more information, contact: OKC Train Show, 1313 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City, OK 73114; (405) 842-4846; e-mail: okctrainshow@aol.com; or visit: www.okctrainshow.com

Oregon, Medford — The Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club's 32nd Annual Rogue Valley Railroad Show will be held November 28-29, at the Medford Armory, 1701 S. Pacific Highway. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission: $5.00, adults; $4.00, seniors; children 14 and under admitted free with an adult. For more information, contact: Brad Fawcett, (541) 535-7952; or Bill Meyer, (541) 821-5547.

Oregon, Portland — The Mt. Hood Model Engineers will be having their 31st Annual Open House on November 14-21, 28-29, and on December 5th, at 5500 SE Belmont Street. Hours will be from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Attractions to include their HO model train club DC and DCC layout with rebuilt logging area and updated yard areas, located in the basement level at the bottom of the stairs. Nov. 14th will be Diesel Daze; Nov. 21st will be Members Pride Day; Nov 28th will be Passenger Train Day; Nov. 29th will be Steam Ops Day; and Dec. 5th will be Mt. Hood Era Day. Admission is free; donations welcomed. For more information, call: Don Mills, (877) 378-6563; or e-mail: mhmeng@aol.com

Pennsylvania, Mill Hall — The Clinton Central Model Railroad Club's Annual Train Meet will be held on November 8th, at the Mill Hall Volunteer Fire Company, located at Water Street and Peale Avenue. Hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission: $3.00, adults; $4.00, family. Group rates available with prior arrangement. For more information, contact: Jim Hill, Clinton Central Model Railroad Club, 15 Logan Avenue, Lock Haven, PA 17745; (570) 726-6826 M-F 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; wwwccmrr.org

Pennsylvania, Monaca — The Beaver County Fall Model Train Show will be held on November 22nd at Center Stage, 1495 Old Brodhead Road. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission: $4.00, adults; and children under 12 admitted free. For more information, contact: Glenn Wallace (724) 775-8023; e-mail: info@bcmrr.railfan.net; www.bcmrr.railfan.net

Pennsylvania, Monaca — The Beaver County Model Railroad and Historical Society's 2009 Christmas Season Open House will be held on November 28-29at 416 6th Street, located across from the Monaca Legion in the old Pittsburgh and Lake Erie railroad station, right next to the tracks. Hours will be from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free; donations are very much appreciated. For more information, contact: Glenn Wallace, (724) 775-8023; www.bcmrr.railfan.net/openhouse.html

Pennsylvania, Monroeville — Greenberg's Train & Toy Show will be held November 14-15, at the Monroeville Convention Center, 135 Mall Boulevard. Show hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days. Show will feature a huge marketplace of train, toy, and hobby dealers, operating model railroads, and instructional presentations. Admission: $7.00, adults good for both days; children under 12 admitted free. For more information, contact: Greenberg Shows, P.O. Box 34, Elmhurst, IL 60126; (630) 279-4087; e-mail: Staff@Greenbergshows.com; www.greenbergshows.com

Pennsylvania, Montrose — A Train, Toy and Craft Show will be held on November 21st, at Montrose High School, 50 High School Road. Hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attractions to include model trains, railroad collectibles, toys, and a separate handmade crafts show. Lunch and snack items will be available. Admission: $3.00, adults; children under 10 admitted free with an adult. Proceeds to benefit the Montrose High School Band. For more information, call (570) 623-2033.

Pennsylvania, Phoenixville — The Schuylkill Valley Model Railroad Club's Annual Model Railroad Open House will be held November 28-29, December 5-6, and January 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, at 400 S. Main Street (diagonally across from the Phoenixville Library). Hours will be from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Attractions to include the club's layout, which models Reading to Philadelphia with numerous buttons that allow visitors to bring scenes to life, Thomas the Tank, and a scavenger hunt. Admission is free; donations gratefully accepted. For more information, visit or call the club on Tuesday evenings, (610) 935-1126; e-mail: svmodelrailroadclub@yahoo.com; or visit: www.svmrrc.com

South Dakota, Rapid City — The 'Black Hills Railway Society' will be holding its Model Railroad Show on November 14th, in the basement of the SD Stockgrower's Assn. building at 426 Saint Joseph Street. Hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attractions include popular Black Hills monuments, Rapid City and more in HO scale at their 4 layouts in HO and N scales, with digital sound running on their DCC system. Admission: $2.00, adults; with supervised children under 12 admitted free. For more information, contact: Bob Fewel, (605) 721-7716; e-mail: zzloconutzz@rushmore.com

South Dakota, Sioux Falls — The Sioux Valley Model Engineers Society will be sponsoring a Model Railroad Show and Swap Meet entitled Trains at Christmas on November 21st and 22nd, at the Expo Building on the W H Lyons. The hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m. on Sunday. Admission: $3.00, adults; children 12 and under accompanied by an adult admitted free. Attractions will include operating model railroad layouts, many model railroad items for sale or trade, and an open house at the nearby club layout. For more information, write: SVMES, P.O. Box 1963, Sioux Falls, SD 57101; call Wayne Hanson, at (605) 373-0222; or visit www.svmes.net

Texas, Fort Worth — The 25th Annual Fort Worth Train Show will be held November 14-15th, at the Will Rogers Memorial Center's Amon G. Carter Exhibits Building, #1 Amon Carter Square. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission: $7.00, adults; children under 12 admitted free. For more information, contact: Bart Bartholomew, 6403 Duffield Dr., Dallas, TX 75248; (972) 733-4998; www.dfwtrainshows.com

Texas, Marshall — The Marshall T&P Depot Museum will be having their Annual Model Train Show on November 1st, at the Marshall Civic Center, located on Highway 59. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. Attractions to include dealer displays, all scales and gauges, museum displays, and overstock sale, gift shop collectibles, switching layouts, and a special drawing for AMTRAK family train trip. Admission good for both days: $5.00, adults; children under 12 admitted free. For more information, contact: Marshall T&P Depot Museum, 800 N. Washington St. Ste 1, Marshall, TX 75670; (903) 938-9495; e-mail: info@marshalldepot.org; www.marshalldepot.org

Utah, Salt Lake City — The Wasatch Division, RMR, NMRA will be sponsoring Wasatch Rails 09 on November 7th & 8th, in the Grand Building and Promontory Hall, at the Utah State Fairpark, 155 North 1000 West. Hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Attractions to include three floors of operating modular layouts, a model contest (both NMRA and popular vote), dealer tables, door prizes, live steam train rides, and Utah's "biggest" Lego layout. Admission: $5.00, adults; children 12 and under admitted free. For more information, contact: Douglas Baney, (801) 967-9013; or Fred Baney, (801) 966-7395; e-mail: wasatchrailsshow@aol.com; Facebook: www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=53807805717

Washington, Puyallup — The World's Greatest Hobby On Tour Show will be held November 21-22, at the Western Washington Fairgrounds. Show hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Attractions will include manufacturers, hobby shops, operating displays, interactive activities, and workshops. Admission: $10.00, adults; children under 16 admitted free; admission is good for both days. For more information, contact: World's Greatest Hobby On Tour, P.O. Box 11, Elmhurst, IL 60126; (630) 279-5094; fax, (630) 214-4113; www.wghshow.com

West Virginia, Huntington — The 52nd Annual Appalachian Model Railroad Society Show will be held November 27-29, at Veterans Memorial Field House, 2590 5th Avenue. Hours will be from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 12:00 noon to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday. Attractions to include operating layouts, memorabilia, books, and model train sales. Admission: $5.00, adults; $1.00, children under 12. For more information, contact: AMRS, P.O. Box 764, Ceredo, WV 25507-0764; Ernie Clay, (304) 429-1432; e-mail: wvfunflyer@aol.com; or Paul Fulks, (304) 429-3885; e-mail: fulks@zoominternet.net

Wisconsin, Madison — The NMRA, Midwest Region, South Central Wisconsin Division's monthly meeting will be held on November 1st, at the Fitchburg Community Center, 5510 Lacy Road. Meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. Program to include live clinics, model and photo contests, door prizes, and home layout viewing. For more information, contact: SCWD, 3015 Union St. #4, Madison, WI 53714; www.nmra-scwd.org

Wisconsin, Milwaukee — Trainfest will be held on November 14-15, at the Exposition Center at Wisconsin State Fair Park. Hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Attractions to include over 50 operating layouts in Z to G scale, 70 manufacturers, 60 hobby dealers, 12 historical groups, artists and photography displays, and on-site demonstrations, including locomotive testing. Admission: $12.00, adults (online coupon available); $2.00, children 4-14; 3 and under admitted free. To enhance the Trainfest hobbyist experience, organizers are offering a special Friday Product Showcase November 13th, not open to the public. With the purchase of a $40.00 ticket, attendees will receive exclusive access to the Friday Product Showcase as well as admission to Trainfest Saturday and Sunday. It gives hobbyists a chance to meet and greet with manufacturers and dealers, ask questions, and compare products. Hobbyists may also network and get the latest in industry tips to enhance their layouts. As a bonus, every Friday Product Showcase ticket holder receives a complementary grab bag, randomly filled with free train products, subscriptions, and literature sponsored by select manufacturers and publishers. For more information, call: (262) 820-3566; or visit www.trainfest.com

As a courtesy to our readers, we have compiled an index featuring every product reviewed in the pages of MRN over the past year. We hope you find it useful.

October 2009

Athearn (HO) UP Gas Turbine Locomotive & (N) 50-foot PS-1 Single Door Boxcars
Atlas (N) Trainman GP15-1 Diesel Locomotive & (HO) Track Cleaning Car
BEST (HO) Wolfeboro Freight House Kit
Broadway Limited (HO) SW7/9 Switcher
Howard's Hobbies (HO) License Plates
Kalmbach (Book) *Done In a Day*
MTH (HO) J-Class Steam Locomotive
Mokei (N) Hyper Construction Vehicles
Walthers (HO) UP/Milwaukee Road Hiawatha Set & (HO) Engineering Office Kit

September 2009

Project DCC, Part 12 A Final Look at Project DCC
American Limited Models (HO) Semaphore Kits
Athearn (N & HO) Flxible Visicoach & (HO) EMD SW1000 Diesel Locomotive
Atlas (N) Masterpiece 1932 ARA Boxcar
Atlas O (O) GP7 Diesel Locomotive
Banta (On30) Cab Conversion Kit
Broadway Limited (HO) Paragon 2 Hudson
Trucks 'N Stuff (HO) Peterbilt 389 and Kenworth W900L

August 2009

Project DCC, Part 11: Automated Computer Control using Panel Pro, Layout Commander, and Train Controller
Aristo-Craft (RCC) Train Engineer Revolution
Athearn (N) Husky Stacks, FP45/F45 with Tsunami Sound, & (HO) CF-7 with Flat Roof
Atlas (HO) Alco HH600/660 Diesel Locomotive
Intermountain (N) EMD FP7 & F7B
Tahoe Model Works (HO) Replacement Railroad Trucks
Piko (HO) Glassworks Complex Structure Kits
Signature Press (Book) *Billboard Refrigerator Cars*
Walthers (HO) Proto 2000 Heritage USRA Mallet
Woodland Scenics (HO) Drive 'N Dine Built 'N Ready Structure

July 2009

Project DCC, Part 10B: Manual Computer Control with Layout Commander & Train Controller
American Limited Models (N) Sand Tower
Blair Line (N) A to Z Used Car Lot Kit
ExactRail (N) Hy-Cube, Vert-a-Pac & Covered Hoppers
Lionel (O) UP Heritage Scheme SD70ACe Diesel Locomotive
Marklin (HO) *Rheingold Express* & Central Station Command Station
Micro-Trains (N) SP C-50-9 Caboose
Walthers (HO) GP15-1 Diesel Locomotive & Diesel Tug and Car Float Kits
Vollmer (HO) Jeep Wrangler Rubicon
Woodland Scenics (G) Whistle While He Works Figure Set

June 2009

Project DCC, Part 10A: Manual Computer Control with Panel Pro & STP
Athearn (N) Overland Passenger Cars & (HO) F45/FP45
Atlas O & NCE (O & DCC) 2-Rail O-Scale Primer
Blair Line (N & HO) Section House Kit
Bridgewerks Mini-Mag 3-S DC Power Controller
Hayes Publishing (Book) *Western Pacific Depots and Stations*
Kato (N) Pennsy NW2 Switchers
Pennsylvania Heritage Models (HO) Track Cover System
Piko (G) Qwik Kit Structure Kits
Rivarossi (HO) 60-Foot Passenger Cars
River Point Station (HO) Ford Expedition

May 2009

Project DCC, Part 9B: Using Your PC to Control Your Layout
Athearn (N) PS-1 Double Door Boxcars & (HO) Spine Car Set
Atlas O (O) Amtrk Dash 8 & Horizon Passenger Cars
Bachmann (Fn3) 2-6-6-2 Steam Locomotive
Banta (O) Inspection Cab kit for Bachmann 4-4-0
Broadway Limited (HO) Paragon2 C60AC Diesel Locomotive
Busch (HO) *Ape* Delivery Truck & *Smart ForTwo* Car
ExactRails (HO) Gondola, Hy-Cube, & Vert-A-Pack, Plus Interview
Kato (N) EMD E8/E9 Diesel Locomotive
Southcoast Scale Models (HO) Samuel J. Rizzler Paper Co. Kit

April 2009

Project DCC, Part 9A: Computer Control Introduction
Athearn (HO) Genesis SD60M Diesel Locomotive
CMW (HO) Utility Truck
Charles Smiley (DVD) *Your Colorful Southern Pacific*
Kato (N) *Broadway Limited* Passenger Car Set & Add On
MTH (O) Premier Line Dash 8 Diesel Locomotive
Micro-Trains (Z) ACF Passenger Car Set
Piko (Large) Garden Train Set
Rivarossi (HO) 4-8-8-4 *Big Boy* Steam Locomotive
Sunset Models (HO) Brass SP Mogul Steam Locomotive
Walthers (N) Cornerstone Sanding Tower Kit & (HO) *Hiawatha* Set Conclusion

March 2009

Project DCC, Part 8 Integrating a Grade Crossing
Aristo-Craft (L) 2-Bay Hopper
Atlas (N) Code 65 True-Track & (HO) Covered Hopper
Bachmann (On30) Railbus and Trailer & (Book) *E-Z Model Railroads*
Banta (HO, S & O) Railroad Signs
Bar Mills (HO & O) Gas Stop
Bluford Shops (N) Auto Boxcars
Broadway Limited (HO) 2-10-2 Steam Locomotive
Drail Modelspoor (Windows PC) *AnyRail Layout Design Software*
Norscot (HO) Caterpillar D9T Bulldozer
S Helper (S) CNJ Cement Car
USA Trains (1:29) *Docksider* 0-6-0T Steam Locomotive

February 2009

Project DCC, Part 7B Signal System Wiring
Aristo-Craft (DVD) *How Model Trains Are Made*
Atlas O (O) MP15 Locomotive
Bachmann (1:20.3) Davenport Critter Mechanical Locomotive
Broadway Limited C30-7
Digitrax (Z, N & HO) DZ125 Decoder
Kato (N) Southern Pacific PA-1 & PB-1 Diesel Locos & GG1 Electric Locomotive
Lenz (DCC) Lenz Set-100 Starter Set Upgrade
Matysik Display Shelf (Multi Scale) Display Shelves
Old and Weary (HO) Tappan Station
Piko (1:22.5) Taurus Locomotive
Seivers Benchwork (ALL) Benchwork Section Kits
Walthers (HO) H-10-44 Diesel Loco & Everett Street Station

January 2009

Project DCC, Part 7A Signal System Wiring
Special Report: Kader Buys Sada Kan
Athearn (N) F45/FP45 Diesel Locomotive & (HO) Checker Cab
Faller (N) Animated Car System
Grand River Models (S) Greg's Grocery Kit
MRC (DCC) 1820 Sound Decoder for Athearn RS3 Locomotive
MTH (HO) NYC 4-8-2 *Mohawk* & (O) CA-1 Caboose
Signature Press (Book) *Southern Pacific Freight Cars, Vol 5*
Walthers (HO) *Hiawatha* Diner and Tap Lounge & RS-2/RSC-2

December 2008

Aristo-Craft (1:29) 40-Foot Boxcars
Athearn (N) Ford C Rescue Trucks, (HO) CSX & Santa Fe Train Sets, (HO) F-7A/B Diesel Locomotive
Atlas (N) Trainman Train Set
Atlas O (O) Industrial Rail Starter Set
Bachmann (Track) E-Z Command DCC Turnouts
Blair Lines (HO) *Pizzaland* Kit
MTH (HO) Railking Scale Diesel Starter Set
Steamscenes (Calendars) 2009 Railroad Themed Calendars
Piko (HO) ICE-3 Train Set
Tokyo Marui (Z) Night Train Set

November 2008

Project DC, Part 6: Turnout Control Wiring
Athearn, Kato & Walthers (HO) Intermodal Cars
Atlas O (O) Master Line, Train Man & Industrial Rail Freight Car Roundup
Bachmann (Fn3) Boxcar
Charles Smiley (Video) *Key System Scrapbook*
Con-Cor (HO) Union Pacific M-10000
GC Laser (N & HO) Utility Truck Toolbox Kit
Granite Creek (On3) Logging Cars
Noch (HO) Shed/Kiosk Kit
Pine Canyon (S0 Professional Building Kit
Preiser (HO) Vegetable Wagon
Smoky Mountian (S) 41-foot Flat Car Kit
Train Control System (DCC & N) Decoder for "Classic N" Locomotives

As a courtesy to our readers, we have compiled an index featuring every product reviewed in the pages of MRN over the past year. We hope you find it useful.

Model Railroad News
The All-Scale News Monthly
Back Issues...

$6.50 each to U.S. addresses, including shipping & handling
$13.50 each to Foreign addresses, including shipping costs

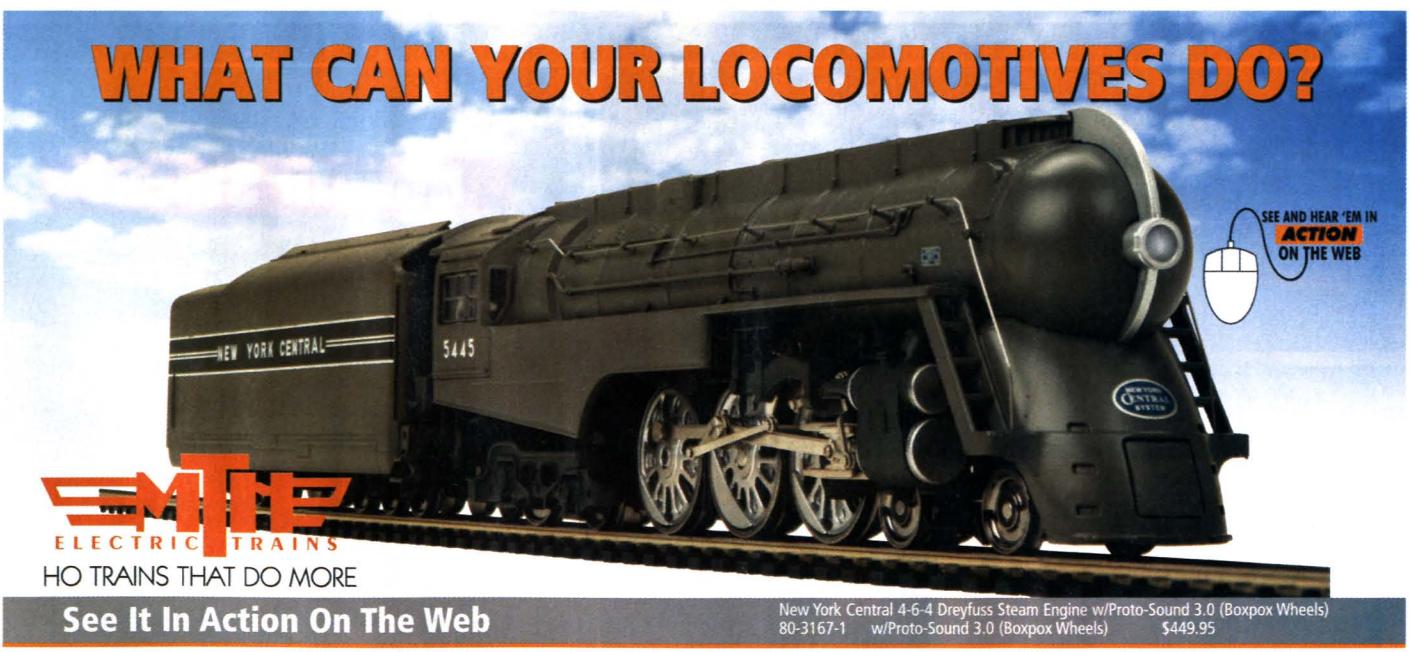
Send month/year of issues/s and check or money order to:
Model Railroad News, P.O. Box 1080, Merlin, OR 97532-1080

• call (541) 955-1096 to check on availability • fax (541) 955-0345 • e-mail: nancy@modelrailroadnews.com

ADVERTING INDEX

Accurail, Inc. 29
Allentown Train Show 27
Alpine Division Scale Models, LLC 64
American Limited Models 77
American Models 81
Amherst Railway Society, Inc. 43
Aristo-Craft Trains 44
Athearn 11
Atlas Model Railroad Co, Inc. 3
Atlas O 2
Aztec Manufacturing 89
BLMA Models 52
BTS 37
BVRR Specialties 21
Bachmann Industries 100
Bar Mills Scale Model Works 68
Blair Line 62
Bluford Shops, LLC 70
Bollinger Edgerly Scale Trains 64
Brass Car Sides 89
Brasseur Electric Trains 70
Brassguide.com 98
Broadway Limited Imports, LLC 17
Bullfrog Snot 87
CMW Holdings, Ltd. 57
Caboose Hobbies, Inc. 25
California Roadbed Co., Inc. 79
Call To Action 16
Canada G Scale Trains 38
Centerline Products, LLC 78
Central Valley Model Works 22
Coach Yard, The 52
Coffman Graphic Solutions Co. 87
Con-Cor International, Ltd. 46
Crusader Rail Services 57
Custom Model Railroads 28
Cypress Engineering 34
DCC Hobby Supply 30
DCC Roundhouse 85
Dallee Electronics, Inc. 85
Digitrax, Inc. 25
Ed's Boxcar 13
ExactRail 4-5
Four Ways West Publications 67
GC Laser 64
Garden Metal Models, Inc. 43
GarGraves Trackage Corp. 22
Great Decals! 56
Great Midwest Train Show 33
Great Train Expo 33
Greenberg Shows 33
Greenway Products 46
Hobby Crafts N More 75
Hobby Loads 56
Hobby Smith, The 83
Hornby USA 36, 52
IBL Products 62
InterMountain Railway Co. 45
JV Models 67
JWD Premium Products 25
John Rendall 67
John's Hobbies 62
Jordan Products 56
KAM Industries 74
Kadee Quality Products Co. 57
Kato 53
Leisure Time Products 63
Lionel Operating Train Society 89
Litchfield Station 75
MTH 97
Micro-Mark 75
Micro-Trains Line 29
Micron Art 63
Miller Engineering, LLC 78
Model Railroad Warehouse 13
Model Rectifier Corporation 99
Models11 57
Mokei Imports 56
Mount Vernon Shops 30
Musket Miniatures, LLC 89
NCE Corporation 79
NJ International, Inc. 28
NMRA 92
N Scale Collector 30
N-Scale Magazine 92
N Scale Railroading 63
New Rail Models, LLC 22
Nick & Nora Designs 62
Northeastern Scale Lumber Co. 24
Northeastern Scale Models, Inc. 62
Oak Tree Systems, LLC 37
Oklahoma City Train Show 30
Paired Rail Railroad Publications, Ltd. 67
Pine Canyon Scale Models 63
RLD Hobbies, LLC 39
RY Models 43
RailMaster Hobbies 77
Railroad Express 13
Rapido Trains, Inc. 14
Ready To Roll 47
REBOXX, Inc. 89
Roberts' Products 21
Rogue Valley Railroad Show 37
Ron's Books 71
S & L Enterprises 25
SJT Enterprises 87
SMC Electronics 78
San Juan Car Co. 75
Scale Card, The 21
Scale University 77
Scalecoat Model Paints 64
Shawmut Car Shops 37
ShelfTrax 70
Sidetrack Laser 62
Signature Press 69
South Bend Signal Company, LLC 25
South River Modelworks 15
StansTrains.com 89
Suncoast Model Railroad Club 27
TAMR 89
Timberline Scenery 62
Tony's Train Xchange 74
TrackMyTrains.com 30
TrainPlayer Software 45
Traintek, LLC 36
TrainWorld 35
Underground Railway Press 89
Walthers 6-7, 73
Whistle Stop Trains 85
White Rose Hobbies, LLC 77
Woodland Scenics 65
World's Greatest Hobby on Tour 33
Ye Olde Huff N Puff 36
Ztrack 22

Model Railroad News



See It In Action On The Web

New York Central 4-6-4 Dreyfuss Steam Engine w/Proto-Sound 3.0 (Boxpox Wheels)
80-3167-1 w/Proto-Sound 3.0 (Boxpox Wheels) $449.95

- **Operate with any manufacturer's DCC system**, or on regular DC or with the M.T.H. DCS system
- **Puff smoke and chuff** at a correct four puffs & chuffs per driver revolution
- **Pull like crazy**, because it's made of die-cast metal
- **Blow its whistle**, ring its bell, and play dozens of other digitally recorded sounds*
- **Announce its arrival** with passenger station or freight yard sound sequences*
- **Quill, or play, the whistle** like a real engineer does, by varying how he pulls the whistle cord** Go to our Web site to hear it!
- **Light the way** with prototypical Rule 17 lighting
- **Double- or triple-head easily** with any other M.T.H. locomotives, steam or diesel
- **Record and playback scenes** (sequences of throttle, sound, and lighting commands that you determine)**
- **Run smoothly at any speed** from 3 scale miles per hour to full throttle, and maintain that speed over varying track conditions with cruise control
- **Compare favorably** with the detail level and accuracy of any other HO steam engine; the Dreyfuss, for example, has different wheels and bearing rods specific for its cab numbers

* requires DCC or M.T.H. DCS system

** requires M.T.H. DCS system

www.mthHotrains.com/steam

LEARN HOW M.T.H. HO locomotives beat anything available today by checking them out at your local M.T.H. Authorized Retailer or online.

© 2009 M.T.H. Electric Trains

BRASSTRAINS.COM

YOUR RESOURCE FOR UNIQUE & OUT OF PRODUCTION BRASS LOCOMOTIVES

Our Largest Collection - EVER Has Just Arrived!

- 1000+ Incredible Brass Steam Locomotives
- 1200+ Pieces of Various Rolling Stock
- 1000+ Passenger Cars and Sets
- Many More Items listed!

Order via Web or Phone

352-288-2222

ORDERS ARE USUALLY SHIPPED WITHIN 24 HOURS OF PAYMENT CONFIRMATION

OPEN M-F, 9-5 EST, U.S.

BRASSGUIDE

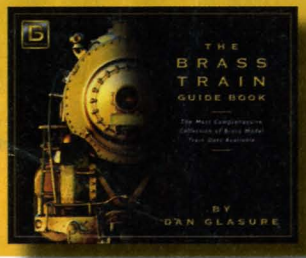
352-288-8722

V2

Our Original "The Brass Train Guide Book" Deluxe or Premium Editions

- Over 700 Photos
- 304 Pages - Hardbound Cover
- Many Articles and Interviews
- Ask about our combo offers!

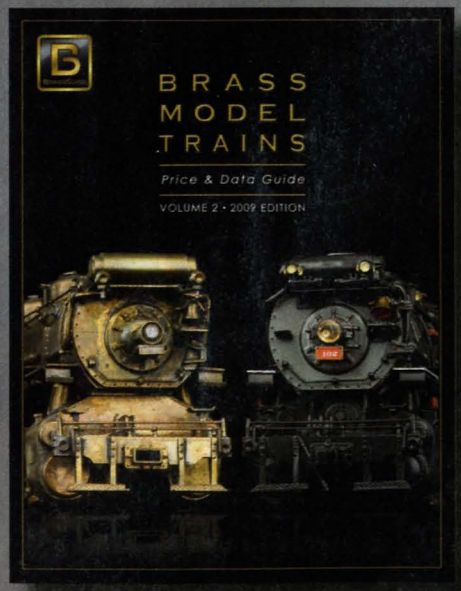
The Deluxe Edition



THIS IS THE MOST COMPLETE SOURCE FOR BRASS MODEL TRAINS PRICE & DATA THAT HAS EVER EXISTED!

WWW.BRASSGUIDE.COM

Now In Stock!



BRASS MODEL TRAINS
PRICE & DATA GUIDE - VOL.2

Now, nothing stands between DC railroads and all onboard sounds.

Tech 6.
There's no other DC pack like it

The only DC pack that unleashes all the sounds trapped in your sound equipped locos.

Ready to bring your layout to life with sound equipped locos, but not yet ready for DCC? Consider MRC's Tech 6 DC train control. This powerful unit controls your railroad, and by simply using the pack's numbered keypad you can unleash all the onboard sounds and lighting functions "trapped" in sound-equipped locos.*

If you don't have a sound-equipped loco, buy an MRC sound decoder, install it in your loco and Tech 6 will deliver all its sounds. In addition, this feature-rich DC train control will also run your non-decoder equipped DC locos.

TECH 6 FEATURES

- ✔ Momentum control for all locos
- ✔ 2 amp regulated unit for HO, N, TT, Z and other DC scales
- ✔ Easy to use 2-wire hookup
- ✔ Mode selection switch lets you operate between analog DC and any loco that's equipped with an NMRA compatible sound decoder

AVAILABLE SOON...

6 amp unit and optional handheld walk-around control

DC railroaders are no longer limited to simple chuff and flipping direction switches to activate bells or whistles. Now, enjoy up to 28 functions. Whatever sounds and lighting functions are onboard, are also on tap for your layout. Tech 6 adds a dramatic dimension to your running enjoyment.

*Blue Line™ locos require a power decoder to unleash all sounds. Blue Line is a trademark of Broadway Limited Imports.

Tech 6. A Sound Decision.

MRC™ MODEL RECTIFIER CORPORATION

80 Newfield Ave.• Edison, New Jersey 08837 • Phone: 732 225 6360 www.modelrectifier.com

TECHNOLOGY. PERFECTED.

☐ Model railroads ☐ Plastic model kits ☐ Battery chargers ☐ Radio control helicopters, planes, cars & boats ☐ Model aircraft engines ☐ Die cast

BRINGING UP THE MARKERS

A caboose was fitted with lights called markers allowing the rear of the train to be seen at night. Our new 1:20.3 scale Long Caboose features a complete, lighted interior featuring simulated kerosene lamps and operating marker lights. This remarkably detailed model will be "Bringing up the Markers" on Large Scale model railroads everywhere!

Features include:
- designed to operate on DC, DCC or battery power layouts
- eight-pin socket for standard DCC decoder
- operating cupola windows (cupola style per prototype)
- removable roof
- lighted and detailed interior with bunks, seats, stove, piping and simulated kerosene lamps
- blackened brass ladders
- die-cast caboose trucks with operating leaf springs
- metal wheels
- die-cast scale knuckle couplers (body-mounted coupler pockets for wide radius use only)
- offset shank couplers also included for use with other popular brands of narrow gauge couplers (1:22.5)
- two underside switches to choose battery, DC, or DCC operation and activation of table lights, marker lights or both with center "off" position

D&RGW™ #0505
Item No. 88795

RIO GRANDE SOUTHERN™
with SINGLE WINDOW CUPOLA
Item No. 88796

RIO GRANDE™
(Flying Grande)
Item No. 88797

PAINTED, UNLETTERED
oxide brown
Item No. 88798

PAINTED, UNLETTERED
oxide red
Item No. 88799

BACHMANN
QUALITY SINCE 1833

Bachmann Industries, Inc. • 1400 East Erie Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19124 • www.bachmanntrains.com